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# *The Southeastern Librarian*

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*The Quarterly Journal of the*  
SOUTHEASTERN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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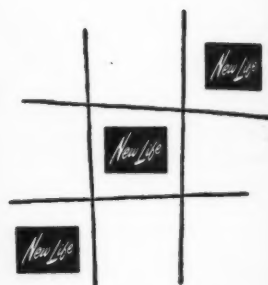
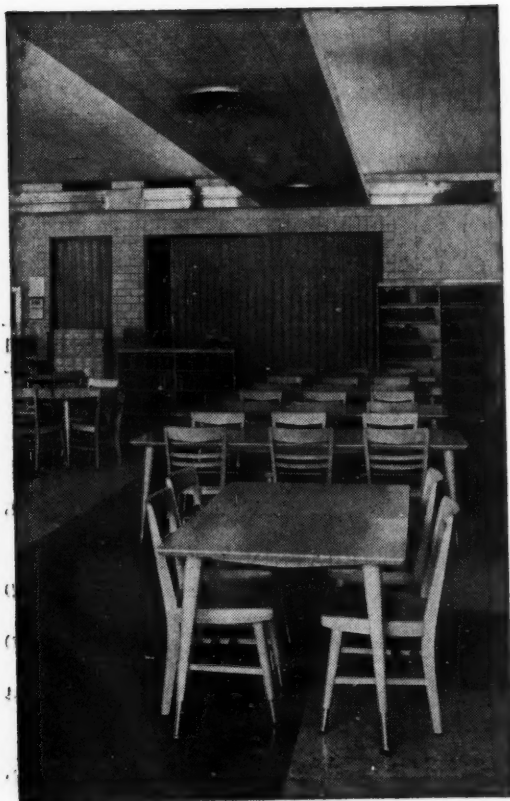
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MARY UTOPIA ROTHROCK

## *Mary Utopia Rothrock: A Tribute*

By HELEN M. HARRIS

In 1916 the President of the Board of Library Trustees of Knoxville, Tennessee, visited cities in the Southeast seeking a librarian for the new Free Public Library, scheduled to open in Knoxville early in 1917. When he arrived in Memphis he was so impressed by the vivacious, young librarian in charge of the circulation desk at the Cossitt Library, that he forthwith abandoned his search and persuaded Mary Utopia Rothrock to become Lawson McGhee's first librarian.

Miss Rothrock had recently completed the two year library course at the New York State Library School, following her graduation with Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Vanderbilt University. One who knew her well in those days says, "Everybody in our class knew Topy was around. She had an inquiring mind, an argumentative disposition and a free swinging vocabulary. She was not the best scholar in the class, but she was one of the best students and got far more thinking done than did many of the so called brilliant students. Any recitation room with her in it housed a discussion group, and everybody loved having her sound off. She rarely recited. Rather she incited. She just wanted to know, 'How come and Who says so.'"

Mary Rothrock's habit of asking questions and her ability to incite people to action are well known to her friends and associates. Her inquiring mind and her inspiring leadership have been responsible for much of the vitality of library development

in the South in the past quarter century. She may not have been the best scholar in her class; but her appreciation of scholarship has motivated many of her activities in making materials and resources available to scholars, and, in reverse order, in helping to bring the results of scientific scholarship within the reach of the unscholarly.

From 1916 to 1934 Miss Rothrock was the chief librarian of Lawson McGhee Library. When TVA headquarters were established in Knoxville in 1933, she served as a consultant for its library program, and in 1934 left the city's service to become the Authority's full-time supervisor of library service. She occupied this position until her retirement in 1948. Responding to a Macedonian call in 1949, she undertook the reorganization of the Knox County Library, to which she devoted five busy years, retiring once more in December, 1954. This is the bare chronology of Miss Rothrock's years of library service—the easy part of this assignment.

To compress the record of interests, her achievements and her honors into one brief article is out of the question, but it is a pleasure to set down some of the highlights of a career as interesting and as productive as hers has been.

Library service and American history, especially the history of her native state Tennessee, have been Miss Rothrock's major interests. In 1925, with a few like-minded persons, she helped to organize the East Tennessee Historical Society, with headquar-

ters in the McClung Historical Room at Lawson McGhee Library. She has served as chairman of many of its committees, on its editorial board, and as its President; and her contributions have appeared frequently in its distinguished *Publications*. From a modest beginning the Society has grown to a membership of 350 persons. Its name is widely known, and the resources of the library's McClung Historical Collection are used by historians and research workers throughout the United States.

When lack of funds halted the steady growth of the library in the early 1930's, Miss Rothrock turned her creative talents to writing in her chosen field of history. In 1936 she published *Discovering Tennessee*, a history for children of junior high school age, which is still on the state's approved list. While it is designed for young people, it is interesting and informative to adults, and its account of early Indian life in Tennessee is unsurpassed.

In 1946 she edited the *French Broad-Holston Country*, a comprehensive history of Knox County, published by the East Tennessee Historical Society as a contribution to the observance of the state's sesquicentennial celebration.

As a loyal and active member of the Tennessee State Historical Commission since 1934, she has promoted the restoration and marking of important sites, such as old Fort Loudoun, the first English settlement in the Southwest Territory, which was destroyed in 1760 during the French and Indian wars. Through the Commission, she has been instrumental in bringing back into print valuable works which were no longer available, most recently the *Autobiography and Letters* of Dr. J. G. M. Ramsey, Tennessee's famous historian.

Her infectious enthusiasm has moved patriotic societies to undertake important projects, such as the extensive filming of early records by the Knox County Committee of the National Society of Colonial Dames of America in Tennessee.

This is no small record of accomplishment as a side line. But Miss Rothrock's fertile imagination and her diligence in prosecuting anything she undertakes were equally productive in the field of libraries. The young librarian was scarcely settled in Knoxville when she begun to show concern for the improvement of library service beyond the borders of her own city. Early in 1920, she and Miss Charlotte Templeton, another "inciter," and the presidents of the library associations of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee issued an invitation to librarians of these states to meet at Signal Mountain, to consider the common problems and needs of libraries in the South. The fellowship was so delightful and the discussions so fruitful that this "joyous group of library workers," as one reporter called them, agreed enthusiastically to meet again two years hence, when Kentucky, Virginia, and Louisiana joined the group. At the second conference, the Southeastern Library Association was launched, with Miss Rothrock as its first president. The provision of better facilities for library education, stronger state library agencies, the development and improvement of public library service including that to Negroes, the establishment of standards for high school libraries, more adequate book collections in southern colleges and universities—these have been the concern of the Association from the beginning, and advances

along all fronts can be credited to its efforts.

In 1928 the representatives of the Rosenwald Fund selected eleven libraries in southern states to demonstrate the possibility of improved library service where city and county service to Negroes and white citizens were under a single administration. They found in Miss Rothrock a willing collaborator, ever ready to experiment. With true Scotch caution, however, she persuaded her Board of Library Trustees to request a somewhat less ambitious project than was at first contemplated. Because of her sound judgment, the library was able to meet its part of the contract and to continue its service through the depression.

From the city to the county to the region as a unit of library administration was a natural progression for her orderly mind. In April, 1933, more than a hundred public officials, newspaper editors, welfare workers, ministers, and librarians met at Chapel Hill, North Carolina, to discuss economic conditions in the South with a view to determining whether and how it might be possible to reduce the cost of essential services and at the same time to promote constructive economy in all the arms of government. At this meeting Miss Rothrock presented a proposal, supported by the American Library Association, for a study of the area immediately surrounding Knoxville, as a possible field for an experiment in the support of a library system by a region larger than a single city or county. The well-documented proposal was received with general interest and approval. It was recognized as an inventive and ingenious new concept, but several years were to pass before conditions were favorable for the experiment. In the meantime, Miss Roth-

rock had opportunity to see further possibilities in the regional idea as she developed a library program for the TVA at its several dam sites. In 1940 the original proposal was revised, the Tennessee State Library Agency was invited to participate with the city of Knoxville and the TVA in a three-way contract to provide service to TVA employees in their local communities around Knoxville. Similar contracts were later made in other areas. Thus, building on central libraries already in existence, with the temporary assistance of an arm of the federal government, and the continuing assistance of the state library agency, regional libraries were developed in all the valley states. This experience led to an acceptance of the regional pattern of library administration throughout the United States.

Perhaps what many of those who worked with Miss Rothrock in the TVA program remember as most stimulating were the sessions of the Tennessee Valley Library Council. The Council was composed of representatives of libraries of all types with which the Authority had cooperative relationships in developing its program. Librarians, and specialists in health, education, agriculture, and welfare who met with them, gained a new understanding of their mutual interests and the value of coordinating their efforts in attacking common problems. The publication in 1949 of *Libraries of the Southeast*, the report of a cooperative survey initiated by the Council and concluded by the Southeastern Library Association, was a unique enterprise in which not only the state library agencies and institutions but literally hundreds of librarians participated. It focused attention on conditions which have retarded the growth of libraries



in the South. It provided incentive for changing them and a bench mark against which to measure progress. Without the assistance of TVA, and Miss Rothrock's encouragement, such a study would likely never have been made.

Another important survey publication bears Miss Rothrock's name. She was one of two librarians on the advisory committee of the Public Library Inquiry made by the Social Science Research Council in the late 1940's.

Miss Rothrock has been honored by librarians with the highest offices at their command. She has served on the Executive Boards and as President of the Tennessee Library Association and the Southeastern Library Association and the American Library Association. The first Lippincott award was presented to her at the annual ALA conference in Kansas City in 1938, for the most outstanding contribution to librarianship in 1935-36. The citation was for her "rare vision and intelligence shown in organizing regional library service and related adult education activities." In addition to her earned degrees, Miss Rothrock received the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters from the University of Chattanooga in 1948, in recognition of her contributions to librarianship and her interest in history.

Miss Rothrock will blush when she reads this recital of her honors and accomplishments, and with characteristic modesty will assert that all her enterprises have been possible only because of the cooperation of her fellow workers. In so far as this is true, it has been due to her unusual ability to inspire in others better performance than they would have believed possible of themselves. Those who have worked with her in close personal relationship know best her sympathetic understanding of human problems, and her interest in the welfare and development of her associates. Her keen mind cuts through at once to the heart of any matter, and her clarity of expression in both writing and speech is remarkable. Her gaiety and quick-silver wit have given a lift to many a meeting. When she rises to say "Mr. President," her hearers are assured of a point well taken, presented with pungent good humor.

At the moment she is not engaged in active library work, but it will not be a surprise should she one day propound a new project, perhaps one whose underlying philosophy may even be in contradiction to any she has advocated in the past, for new times and circumstances have always challenged her, and she has never been averse to changing her mind.

# *The Southeastern Library Association*

1920-1950

By MARY EDNA ANDERS

This history of the Southeastern Library Association has been written to carry out an assignment given to the Historical Committee of that Association, an assignment that has been accompanied by two major difficulties. First, the story of the development of the Association lacks discreteness. It is so intermingled and interwoven with other aspects of library service in the region that it has been almost impossible to extricate and isolate the facts of its growth without loss of continuity. Second, many of the records of the Association are no longer available; the minutes of the Association were lost in 1930 and information prior to that date has been extremely difficult to locate. The secretary's minute book covering 1934-1940 was not found until after the completion of the final draft of this manuscript.

In an attempt to solve the problem of distinguishing the story of Southeastern from other aspects of the southern library movement, only the highlights of the movement have been mentioned. To provide background, the history is introduced with a brief outline of the movement up to the time of the organization of Southeastern. Then, after the history of the Association to 1950 has been presented, the status of library service in the region in 1950 has been outlined. This brief information regarding the total library movement has been included to emphasize the significance and meaning of the development of the Southeastern Library Association.

Gathering of material for this history antedated by a number of years the appointment of the Historical Committee of the Association. The writer's interest in the Association was aroused in 1947 at the University of North Carolina in a class of Dr. Louis R. Wilson's on the library movement in the Southeast. Actual collection of material was begun some time later in connection with research on the southern library movement undertaken on an assistantship in the Institute for Research in Social Science, University of North Carolina. Various files of personal correspondence have been made available to the writer, and after the committee assignment was made some additional material was secured through the cooperation of committee members and various leaders in the Association.

In spite of the scarcity of records, the facts presented in this paper can all be verified either in the official files of the Association, in correspondence of participants, or in printed sources. Documentation has been kept to a minimum, however, and footnotes have not been used for information contained in the official files.

The merits, if any, of the history should be credited to Dr. Louis R. Wilson, University of North Carolina, who has variously inspired, scolded, and encouraged the writer, and has, on this specific assignment, discussed

at length the plan and ideas and criticised the actual writing. Credit must also be given to Miss Mary U. Rothrock, Knox County Library, and to Miss Tommie Dora Barker, Emory University, who read the manuscript and gave generously of their time and advice.

## THE BEGINNING OF THE LIBRARY MOVEMENT IN THE SOUTHEAST

### EARLY LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT

Even at this late date there is considerable evidence of the early interest of colonial Southerners in books and reading. Studies of inventories and wills show that unusually fine private collections were to be found in the southern colonies; in fact, of the thirty-eight largest personal collections noted in one such study,<sup>1</sup> seventeen were located in the Carolinas and Virginia.

As time passed, interest in books led to the establishment and development of public and college libraries in the various sections; establishment of libraries in the southern area lagged behind that of other sections, however. A survey<sup>2</sup> of library facilities in the United States completed in 1849 listed 154 libraries and gave the average collection of these libraries as 10,580 volumes. Only twenty-one of these were Southern, and of that number only seven had collections as large as the national average. Thus, while the New England and northern area witnessed a clearly defined library movement during this period, no such development could be identified in the South.

The early failure of the region to foster such a movement has been attributed to a number of causes. One explanation stressed the fact that Southerners were outdoor people, both from the occupational and recreational standpoint; consequently since they did not spend as much time indoors, they had less time to devote to reading than did their northern neighbors. Another explanation of the failure of the South to sponsor library development emphasized the Southerner's idea of individual rather than governmental responsibility; for just as the well-to-do Southerner considered education to be a private rather than a public responsibility, so he considered himself to be responsible only for the satisfaction of his own book needs. Consequently, he tended to develop his own fairly large personal collection and did not worry about those who lacked funds to supply their own reading needs.

Whatever the causes, the South, by the middle of the nineteenth century, had obviously failed to give library development the attention it had received in other sections. Then the Civil War, with its almost complete disruption of cultural, social, and economic conditions in the South, accentuated the factors that retarded and delayed the development of

1. Thomas E. Keys "The Colonial Library and Sectional Differences in the American Colonies." *Library Quarterly* 8:387-390, July, 1938.

2. Charles C. Jewett. *Notices of Public Libraries in the United States of America*. Washington, Printed for the House of Representatives, 1851.

services such as those offered by libraries. In the years immediately following 1865, little if any progress was made, a fact clearly demonstrated by the report<sup>3</sup> of the U. S. Office of Education on public libraries issued in 1876 which showed that of 226 such libraries in the nation possessing 10,000 or more volumes, only twenty-nine were in the South. By this time the average national collection contained 26,259 volumes, a figure equaled by only six in the region.

#### REGIONAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SOUTH

Unfortunately, the factors that adversely affected the development of library service were characteristically and inherently Southern. The region depended primarily on agriculture for its livelihood and much of its land was poor or eroded. This meant that personal income, at best uncertain, was quite low. Furthermore, the population of the region was sparse, thus complicating provision of adequate support of school and public libraries. The rate of illiteracy was, likewise, unusually high; therefore, the actual potential clientele of libraries was small. The proportion of children to adults was high, which meant that a small portion of the population had to support an unusually large part. In addition to these manifest limitations, the race problem affected all aspects of life in the region. It necessitated the support of two programs of education when actually the region lacked resources to provide adequately for one.<sup>4</sup>

Under such conditions, the competition among various educational and cultural agencies for public support was inevitably keen. Public health, public welfare, public education and similar movements, each yielding more tangible returns to the people, naturally received first attention, and library service was regarded as a non-essential luxury. For this reason, it was only after improvements in these other areas that development of library service became possible.

In reality, prior development of agricultural extension, public health, educational, and other programs benefited the movement for library service in a number of ways; three of which are worthy of note. First, by combining local and state efforts, these programs accustomed people to governmental participation in the provision of such services. Second, by helping the people secure more of this world's goods and improving their living conditions generally, they made them more receptive to the idea of libraries and of the service they offered. Third, by careful study of the work of other agencies, library leaders were able to avoid some of their mistakes and to utilize some of their more successful methods. For example, the demonstration program used by agricultural extension workers was later successfully followed by public library workers, education's use of supervisors was adopted by school libraries, and the use of larger units of service by health and public welfare programs served as precedent for the development of, first, county, and, later, regional libraries.

3. U. S. Bureau of Education. *Public Libraries in the United States of America*. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1876, p. 762-773.

4. Louis R. Wilson and Edward A. Wight. *County Library Service in the South*. Chicago, University of Chicago Press, 1935, p. 1-23.

### THE SOUTHERN LIBRARY MOVEMENT BEGINS

By 1900 a number of specific agencies and forces were beginning to work to provide the South with a complete network of library service through public, school, and college libraries; furthermore some relationship among the events in the library world was discernible, that is, one event influenced and led to another. This organized library movement can be traced to 1895, for that year witnessed the first of a series of developments indicating awakening or renewed activity in public, school, and university library service.

In that year the Cotton States and International Exposition was held in Atlanta. This fair, one of a number held in various cities to demonstrate the progress the South had made in industry, agriculture, and other fields, included a Congress of Women Librarians and a library exhibit. Visitors had a chance to see a model library, to view equipment used in libraries, and, most important, to see that libraries possessed enough value to be given a place in a fair calling attention to southern progress.

At the Congress of Women Librarians, Georgia librarians considered the formation of a state library association, but, after serious discussion, decided against such action because librarians in the state were still too few and too scattered to sustain such an organization. The idea was not forgotten, however, and two years later in 1897 such an organization was formed largely at the instigation of the staff of the Young Men's Library Association of Atlanta. This Georgia Library Association was the first such body in the Southeast.

Primarily as a result of the success of the Congress of Women Librarians and the formation of the Georgia Library Association, the American Library Association was persuaded to hold its 1899 conference in Atlanta, which was rapidly becoming the center of library activities in the Southeast. This 1899 meeting of the American Library Association, the first to be held in the South, provided real stimulation for library interests in the region. The meeting, a small one by present standards, brought together 215 people. Only thirty-nine Southerners were present, but they were able to take back to their colleagues many new ideas plus the equally important feeling of belonging to a profession, of being a part of a group working to extend the coverage of libraries. At the same time the national association and its members from other sections took with them from Atlanta the knowledge that the South now possessed a group seriously concerned with the lack of library service in the region and determined to remedy the situation.

An announcement of far reaching importance for southern libraries was made at this conference held in Atlanta in 1899. In 1881 Andrew Carnegie, millionaire industrialist and philanthropist, had announced what was the first of his many contributions towards the construction of library buildings. Here, in 1899, his first contribution to a library building in the South was made public—the gift to go to the City of Atlanta to help it transform its old subscription library into a free public library.

Atlanta's subscription library, the Young Men's Library Association, had been organized in 1867. Although it had been reasonably successful,



it eventually encountered the difficulties felt by most subscription libraries and was struggling to remain alive. When its librarian, Miss Anne Wallace, learned of the Carnegie gifts, she set out to secure a grant for the library. Miss Wallace, a remarkable young woman and unquestionably the original leader of the library movement, secured favorable consideration of her request from Carnegie, and the announcement of the grant came as a result of her activities.

As the Carnegie Library was organized, Miss Wallace encountered difficulties in securing staff members due to lack of facilities for training librarians in the South. To meet the problem she inaugurated in 1899 an apprentice class, the first library training program in the Southeast, in the Carnegie Library in Atlanta. Once again she went to Andrew Carnegie, this time for assistance in setting up a library school and the funds she secured made possible the establishment in 1905 of the Southern Library School as a part of the Carnegie Library of Atlanta.

Meanwhile, Georgia had achieved another "first" in southern library history. Recognizing governmental responsibility for the development of libraries, leaders in Georgia in 1897 secured legislation providing for a state library commission. Unfortunately, the law contained no provision for financial support, and it was not until 1919 that funds were secured for the commission.

Concern over the lack of school library facilities offered further evidence of the growing consciousness of libraries and their services. This concern resulted in the enactment by North Carolina, in 1901 of a law providing state support for rural school libraries. Much later, in 1923, Virginia appointed a supervisor of school libraries who was charged with development of additional school libraries as well as the provision of assistance to those already in existence.

College libraries also felt the stimulation of the increase in interest in libraries. During the late 1800's many of the southern institutions developed their first central or unified book collections. Earlier the needs of the students had been served by the collections of the various literary societies, but during the last quarter of the nineteenth century those societies became less and less active and important. As interest in them abated, they gradually turned their collections over to a central office or to the college or university library. As a result, many institutions secured their first libraries in this way while still others had their meager collections greatly enriched.

Such were the original stirrings, the beginnings of the library movement in the South. As isolated incidents, no one of them possessed great significance because some, such as the establishment of the Georgia Library Commission, were actually only token gestures. But these were not unimportant isolated incidents; they set precedents for similar events elsewhere. Other cities followed Atlanta's example and secured Carnegie grants to construct library buildings. Other states obtained legislative provisions for library commissions. They secured funds for the support of library agencies and the enactment of school library legislation. State library associations were organized rapidly. Universities and colleges began

to give more attention to their libraries, and they too secured Carnegie funds to construct library buildings.

By the early 1920's all of the southern states had formed state library associations, and six of them had established state library extension agencies. The region now boasted slightly more than six hundred libraries of a thousand or more volumes. It also possessed one library school plus a number of institutions that were offering courses in library training.

A simple recitation of the various developments is apt to mislead one into visualizing their bringing complete library coverage to the South almost overnight. Such was obviously not the case. Although the events were duplicated a number of times, not all states secured library commissions; and although each development constituted a step forward in in library progress, the step was frequently an uncertain, unsteady advance. These events outlined in preceding paragraphs provided the beginning, but the South was still beset with the regional handicaps—low income, illiteracy, and so on—that continued to delay and retard library development.

The region needed more library schools, and it needed especially some means of training Negro librarians. The area had more librarians than it had previously, in spite of the lack of training facilities, but the book collections were still small. Books per capita ranged from .24 in Mississippi to .50 in Tennessee. School libraries existed here and there but were hopelessly inadequate in most cases. No southern library appeared on the list of the twenty largest college and university libraries in the nation. On every level, libraries lacked funds and trained personnel. The people were still lacking in library consciousness. Many of them had never seen a library, and in the early 1920's only 20 per cent of them received library service.

Although the South still lacked much in the way of library facilities, it had made remarkable progress in comparison with conditions in 1895, and by 1920 it possessed enough libraries and library agencies to give the library movement a real foundation and to provide a reasonable working force. The movement had completed its first quarter century and was entering a new period that would be distinguished by the addition of new allies and forces and by the continued expansion of library service.

New factors contributing to the development of library service in the South included new concepts in the educational world and related fields and the appearance of new organizations and agencies. One of the most significant concepts from the standpoint of library service was that of regionalism, the idea that areas are identified by certain common characteristics and problems and that because of the similarity of problems the governmental units in the area can effectively join forces in seeking a solution to their problems. Library leaders accepted this concept and more and more studied problems of the region rather than those of particular localities.

The number of forces or agencies interested in the library movement increased surprisingly in the period around 1920. Educational foundations responded to the overtures of southern librarians, and their funds helped make possible the completion of many library plans. The concept



of regionalism found expression in the formation of a regional library association of librarians that provided much of the leadership of the library movement. A decade or two later the Works Progress Administration and the Tennessee Valley Authority added their support to the southern library movement, and by this time the movement had become strong enough to lend its support to other agencies and movements in the region.

Of the new forces participating in the library movement, the Southeastern Library Association, the new regional association, proved to be of special importance and significance. Its actions and influence were felt in every aspect, on every level of library service in the region, and the history of its first thirty years of existence provides a resumé of the library movement in the Southeast during that period.

## THE SOUTHEASTERN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION 1920-1950: CHRONOLOGY

### SOUTHERN LIBRARIANS MEET

Strangely, the idea for a southern library association was conceived by a group of librarians en route to a meeting of another library association. These Southerners, traveling to Colorado Springs for the 1920 conference of the American Library Association, talked about the possibility of some sort of a regional meeting. This apparently idle conversation was followed by a serious discussion at a breakfast gathering of some of the Southerners of the advantages a regional meeting might offer. Evidently they felt the advantages to be numerous for shortly after the group returned home, steps to call a regional meeting were taken.

The American Library Association had met in early June, and before the month ended letters were sent to leading southern librarians describing the proposed meeting and asking for criticism, suggestions, and, most important, support. Although the leaders of the movement may have had formation of a permanent organization in mind, there is no written evidence indicating so. All letters and announcements that have been located refer to a "meeting" or a "conference" with no suggestion that it be perpetuated.

The librarians wanted a "conference small enough for close contacts and free discussion, and giving opportunity to consider library problems in the light of southern conditions, social and economic, and taking into account the stage of library development in the South."<sup>5</sup> The planners believed that a "joint meeting" would give an "impetus to library work" and would bring together a "lot of people who never go to an A. L. A., librarians of small libraries, and possibly even a trustee or two."<sup>6</sup>

5. Charlotte Templeton. "The Southeastern Library Association, A Backward Look." *Southeastern Library Association, Papers and Proceedings*, Seventh Biennial Conference, 1932, p. 11.

6. Letter from Charlotte Templeton, Secretary of the Georgia Library Commission, June 10, 1920.

Encouraging response to the preliminary letters explaining reasons for holding the meeting led to formulation of plans to assemble in November, and invitations were dispatched.

Various people participated in the planning; thus, assignment of responsibility for calling this first meeting becomes difficult. At least one source<sup>7</sup> credits Charlotte Templeton, then secretary of the Georgia Library Commission, with furnishing the idea. Certainly Miss Templeton and Mary U. Rothrock, then librarian, Lawson McGhee Library, were the leaders and did much of the work involved in bringing this first meeting to pass. In fact, the invitations were sent under the signatures of Miss Rothrock, Miss Templeton, and the presidents of the state library associations in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. Officers of the various state associations were asked to publicize the meeting and specific librarians were asked to assist with the program.

In response to the invitations, approximately one hundred people gathered at Signal Mountain, Tennessee on November 12-13, 1920. The group included representatives from various kinds of libraries and from each of the seven states mentioned previously.<sup>8</sup> One of the librarians present at this first meeting has subsequently characterized the conferees as a "group of youngish, Southern librarians—predominantly public librarians, but with a sprinkling of college people—who were fed up with the formality with which they came into remote contact with ALA."<sup>9</sup>

In addition to the Southerners, library interests outside the region were represented by Sarah C. N. Bogle, assistant secretary of the American Library Association, and Mary E. Ahern, editor of *Public Libraries*. Apparently, Miss Ahern attended because of her interest in "news" while Miss Bogle appeared on the program.

Actually no formal program was prepared; brief talks or summaries launched discussions of various problems. At this first meeting attention centered around library conditions in the region: specifically, provision of library service to Negroes, the work of state library extension agencies, recruitment of librarians, relations between schools and libraries, and support of public library service by business. At this meeting, and in subsequent ones, the group concerned itself with "general problems rather than questions of administration or technique,"<sup>10</sup> and informality was the keynote.

Social activity had its place also, and although no breakfasts or lunches were scheduled, members of the group ate together—sometimes drawn together by common responsibilities, sometimes by geographic ties. The "planned" program did include a book dinner that came to be a feature of all Southeastern Library Association gatherings during the period covered by this history although it was subsequently discontinued.

#### THE ORGANIZATION OF AN ASSOCIATION PROPOSED

This first meeting had been a success and the move to form a regional association was now underway. The participants enthusiastically began

7. Sally M. Akin, Southeastern Library Association, *Papers, Proceedings, Tenth Biennial Conference, 1938*, p. 51.

8. "Southeastern Library Conference." *Public Libraries* 25:608, December, 1920.

9. Letter from Miss Mary U. Rothrock, Knox County Librarian, February 26, 1954.

10. Charlotte Templeton, "The Southeastern Library Association, A Backward Look." *op. cit.*

to plan for regular meetings involving, naturally, establishment of some sort of organization. At this point Miss Ahern voiced apprehension. She was afraid that a regional body would weaken the national one and that the southern librarians were moving to isolate themselves from members of their profession in other sections of the country. Although those present did not share Miss Ahern's reservations, they did feel the need for some time to plan the course the proposed organization would take, so action was postponed.

Thus, the meeting was adjourned. No organization had been formed, but as an indication of the serious intent of the meeting a chairman and a secretary were elected—Miss Rothrock serving in the first position, Miss Templeton in the second.

How much activity ensued between this first meeting and the second is not clear. At any rate, at the meeting of the American Library Association in Detroit in June, 1922, Southerners decided to hold another meeting of the Southeastern Librarians' Conference as the body had been informally designated.

This time preparations were more elaborate. A printed notice of the approaching meeting was distributed. The notice explained in some detail the purposes, plans, and accommodations for the meeting. The statement pointedly promised a program that would be "helpful" but not "long-drawnout" and "stiff."

Contemporary reports indicate approximately two hundred individuals gathered at Signal Mountain, November 2-4, 1922, for what proved to be the organizational meeting of the Southeastern Library Association. Again librarians from outside the region were present. The presence of George B. Utley, then president of the American Library Association, might be interpreted as recognition of the purposefulness of the southern body, and Miss Ahern had returned to follow the activities and antics of this rash group.

The first sessions were devoted to round table discussions of various library activities—cataloging, book selection, and similar duties. Although the subjects considered were more restricted than those discussed at the first meeting, the approach was still general—indeed forward looking. A contemporary account<sup>11</sup> that cited one librarian's advocating the "exclusion of the public from access to the book" as a "curious anachronism" illustrates the general trend of thought at the meeting.

Again the problem of provision of library services to Negroes and the lack of facilities for training Negro librarians received considerable attention and the discussion and subsequent action of the leaders of the group helped secure the establishment of a library school at Hampton Institute in 1925.

#### THE GROUP ADOPTS A CONSTITUTION

At this meeting, the final session, not the round tables, aroused most interest, for then the permanent organization of the body was decided. A committee headed by Miss Templeton reported in favor of a permanent organization and outlined plans for such an association. The Southerners present were unanimously in favor of formation of a permanent associa-

11. "Southeastern Librarians' Conference." *Public Libraries* 27:615, December, 1922.

tion or conference. However, complete agreement on the nature of organization was not reached so easily. One group wanted to establish a formally organized body with a clearly defined program; another felt that the South needed a policy making organization rather than a functional one that would exist as a separate professional body with few if any ties with representatives of the library profession elsewhere in the nation. Louis R. Wilson, then librarian of the University of North Carolina, served as spokesman of the latter group. He recalled the fate of the Southern Educational Association that had been formed in 1890, when southern educators decided that the problems of education in the South did not receive sufficient consideration by the National Education Association. The Southern Educational Association assumed specific responsibilities and functions, existed as an independent and separate organization, but a number of years later passed away, having made only a limited contribution to the educational advancement of the region. The Conference on Education in the South, formed in 1898, had, on the other hand, not adopted a formal program of action and had not undertaken the type of routine normally carried on by an association. Instead, it had served as a planning board and steering committee and through its informal action had contributed greatly to the furthering of southern education. He pointed out, also, the need of southern libraries for such a policy-forming organization rather than for another professional, functional association. After full discussion it was agreed that a loosely knit policy-making body or conference should be formed rather than a formal association with specific functions. Miss Ahern, who still disapproved of the proposed organization again expressed her fear that it would weaken the national association and eventually be harmful to the entire profession. To show they felt no resentment toward Miss Ahern, the conferees, as soon as they approved the constitution, elected her to life membership in the new organization.

Copies of the constitution providing for an informal, loosely organized association were sent to the state associations by Miss Templeton, secretary of the body, accompanied by a letter explaining something about the new organization, asking the states to accept the constitution, join the association, and elect a member to the executive committee. Letters and copies of the constitution were sent to state associations in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia, the constitution to be effective when ratified by five of those bodies. No record of the date when the constitution went into effect has been located.

The constitution provided for an association built upon state rather than individual membership with members of the state associations automatically belonging to the Southeastern Library Association. No permanent headquarters were established and the location of the biennial meetings was left to the discretion of the executive board.

Others shared Miss Ahern's apprehensions regarding the new organization, and, apparently, during its first years its possible deleterious effect on state as well as the national association was discussed. Frequently letters written during 1923-24 stressed that relations between the Southeastern Library Association and the American Library Association were

most cordial. Leaders of Southeastern emphasized that it had no desire to supplant any other association but was "intended to discuss particularly the problems of the Southeast and to promote library development in this region."<sup>12</sup>

Although the Association has officially met biennially, during the early years Southeastern usually held a semi-official yet off-the-record conference at meetings of the American Library Association. Thus, at the Saratoga Springs meeting of the American Library Association in July, 1924, the executive committee of the Southeastern Library Association voted to hold the first biennial conference of the completely organized association at Asheville, North Carolina, in October of the same year.

Pre-publicity for the meeting was more extensive than had been true earlier—notice being mailed to over eight hundred individuals. This publicity emphasized the theme of the meeting—adult education.

With the 1924 meeting the Association might be said to have completed its organizational period. It had established a loose framework for action. Equally important, it was attaining a status that would enable it to work with other groups and was becoming recognized and accepted as a representative professional body of some importance.

#### THE ASSOCIATION FORMULATES PLANS

The 1926 meeting of the Southeastern Library Association launched a period of great activity on the part of the Association. That meeting ranks in the foreground of the Association's important meetings in significance to both southern library development and to the Association itself. It bore all the characteristics of a carefully staged drama in which the characters and/or forces had been brought together to effect a solution to a problem. In this case, means of remedying the inadequacies of library service in the South comprised the problem.

Represented at Signal Mountain in 1926 were agencies and organizations that logically might be expected to assist southern librarians to find means of improving library conditions in the region. In fact, so many professional dignitaries were present that one source said the meeting possessed a "distingué air comparable with that of the peace conference at the Hague."<sup>13</sup>

The meeting got underway with a paper,<sup>14</sup> "The Library in the Advancing South," by its president, Louis R. Wilson. The paper first presented some of the elements—rural areas, racial problems, low income, illiteracy, attitudes—that had adversely affected southern library development. Then "The Present [library] Scene" was described in some detail, and finally suggestions were made concerning measures that might speed and improve southern library progress. Dr. Wilson pointed out the need for

1. Establishment of a "professorship in the use of books and bibliography" at each state university
2. "Library Schools and Summer Courses" in library science
3. Development of libraries in high schools

12. Letter from Mary U. Rothrock, August 14, 1924.

13. "Chattanooga Welcomed Southeastern Library Association." *Library Equipment* 2:1, May, 1926.

14. Louis R. Wilson. "The Library in the Advancing South." *Southeastern Library Association, Proceedings, Fourth Biennial Conference, 1926*, p. 3-11.



4. Library commissions concerned with extension of library service in each state
5. Provision of library service on a county or multi-county basis rather than by smaller units
6. Utilization of "Field Representatives and Standing Committees" to secure financial assistance and advice following the pattern established in education, agriculture, and other fields.

This paper, still of value to students of library development, set the tone for the entire meeting, and a committee was appointed to formulate objectives for the Association to work for in the region. Each of the sections also gave some attention to objectives and attempted to define goals for their respective sphere of activity.

On hand to hear this survey of southern library conditions were representatives from the national library association, the educational foundations and the regional education association. The American Library Association had three of its former presidents, its president-elect, its Boards of Education for Librarianship, Library Extension, and Adult Education, and its Executive Board in attendance as well as its Executive Secretary and other headquarters officials. These representatives of the national association held special meetings of their own committees and boards during and immediately after the Southeastern conference and participated in the conference itself. The national library leaders could give of their experience in established library programs to the southern group that was attempting to formulate and develop a program for its region.

Present also was Jackson Davis of the General Education Board. Although the various educational foundations had already expended large sums in the southern states, relatively little had been spent for library projects. These foundations, then, constituted one of the major sources from which the southern planners might expect financial assistance in the development of their programs, and the General Education Board had evidenced more interest than any of the others in library activities.

Representatives from the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools also came to the meeting. Because successful development and enactment of programs for school libraries and education for librarianship depended in large measure on securing the cooperation of the Southern Association, the presence of its representatives was quite important.

Thus, in 1926 at Signal Mountain, one found a group of librarians representing a region which by that time possessed a number of cities—Chapel Hill, Atlanta, Knoxville, Richmond, and Louisville—with library centers, public or otherwise, strong enough to serve as focal points in expanding library service and providing sufficient professional support to sustain such a program. That program, in the formative stage at the 1926 meeting, began to take shape rapidly and its architects benefited from the opportunity to consult with the nationally known librarians who were present; they were also encouraged by the possibility of securing funds from the foundations to carry out their plans. The various guests at Signal Mountain, impressed with the seriousness and purposefulness evidenced at the conference responded to the planning with a measure of interest and enthusiasm that mere correspondence and briefs would never have

engendered. The attendance at this meeting was no happenstance; correspondence of the officers of the Southeastern Library Association reveals the planning and negotiations that were responsible for the convergence of interests so important and so useful to the southern library movement.

One major step taken at the 1926 meeting had far reaching results. A committee, under the chairmanship of Dr. Wilson, was appointed to negotiate with the Southern Association regarding adoption by that body of standards for school library service. Committee members, Dr. Wilson and Etta Matthews, Florida State College for Women, went to the meeting of the Southern Association at Jackson, Mississippi, later in 1926 to try to persuade the Association to appoint a high school library committee. Both representatives from the Southeastern Library Association participated in the program and at the conclusion of the discussion, the Southern Association appointed a library committee under the chairmanship of J. Henry Highsmith, North Carolina State Department of Education.

During the next year, Dr. Wilson, Charles H. Stone, George Peabody College, and Nora Beust, University of North Carolina, worked with Dr. Highsmith and his committee on the formulation of standards, and Dr. Wilson and Mr. Stone went to the meeting of the Southern Association in Jacksonville, Florida, and helped to secure the adoption of the standards. The committee of the Southeastern Library Association was continued and in the next three or four years worked out standards for libraries of the institutions that offered courses in school librarianship and helped revise the standards for college libraries. Standards for institutions offering courses for the training of school librarians caused considerable discussion by the colleges and led, in part, to the survey of library training facilities in the region later made by Miss Bogle. The standards for high school libraries, modified many times, exerted great influence not only on school libraries but also on education for librarianship because the adoption of standards increased the need for trained librarians.

In 1926, for the first time, the papers presented at the biennial meeting were published. Although the volume does not include all of the proceedings, its appearance is worthy of note. In addition to prestige and publicity value, it provided a means of distributing some of the principal papers given at the meeting and marked the beginning of regular publication of papers and addresses presented at Southeastern meetings.

By now the Southeastern Library Association was achieving a status of real importance. It was strong enough to provide a vehicle of operation and could negotiate and cooperate with organizations and institutions. The planning commenced in 1926 would be modified, expanded, and refined and would chart the development of southern library service for the next decade.

But plans of that magnitude are not suddenly developed overnight. The 1926 meeting provided the beginning, not the completed plan. Thus, when the Association gathered in Biloxi, the planning was continued. Papers on state library extension agencies, high school library standards, "The Color Line," and similar topics—each one reflecting a problem facing the library profession—were read at the meeting.



Again a significant paper<sup>15</sup> "Southern Library Achievement and Objectives," by Dr. Wilson proved of far reaching influence. This paper, in a sense, a supplement to the 1926 one, contained a definite statement of objectives for the southern library world. Dr. Wilson singled out the various library groups and charged them with specific aims as follows:

**College libraries**

1. Development of library schools
2. "Building up of adequate book resources"
3. "Elevation of standards of the Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools"

**Public and county libraries**

1. Utilization of all facilities to extend library service to the 71% of the population of the region that did not then possess it

**School libraries**

1. Understanding of curriculum and use of library resources to enrich school programs
2. Knowledge of child psychology and children's literature
3. Certification of school librarians

**Library commissions**

1. Cooperation with related agencies
2. Statement of standards for public library service

**National associations and boards**

1. Southeastern should attempt to secure their interest and support

**Promoters of library service for Negroes**

1. Expansion of service
2. Cooperation of all agencies involved

**The Association and individuals**

1. "Imagine vividly"
2. "Work out and follow a constructive library program"
3. "Plan in accord with the best national standards."

This formulation of objectives crystalized much of the thinking and discussion of the Association and paved the way for the activities of the policy committee subsequently appointed by the Southeastern Library Association.

### THE LIBRARY MOVEMENT ADVANCES

By the late 1920's many forces were at work in the southern library field, and in this period it becomes especially difficult to recount the story of Southeastern without giving a complete history of related aspects of the library movement. Certainly one of the most closely interwoven developments and one that exerted great influence on the Association was the Rosenwald demonstration program.

The Julius Rosenwald Fund's earliest library program involved provision of libraries to Negro schools. From this interest the activities were expanded and ultimately encompassed provision of aid for purchase of books for college libraries, scholarships for training of librarians, and demonstrations of public library service. Officials of the Fund launched the demonstration program largely due to the efforts of southern librar-

15. Louis R. Wilson. "Southern Library Achievement and Objectives." Southeastern Library Association, *Addresses, Fifth Biennial Conference, 1928*, p. 63-74.

ians and Carl H. Milam, then executive secretary of the American Library Association.<sup>16</sup> At the 1928 meeting of the American Library Association they had convinced S. L. Smith, southern representative of the Julius Rosenwald Fund, that a demonstration of public library service would do much to stimulate southern library development.

In 1929 the Fund appropriated a sum of \$50,000 to finance demonstrations of public library service in the South. County libraries could participate in the program by agreeing to provide county wide library service to young and old, to Negroes and whites alike, and to maintain certain per capita expenditures. Libraries meeting the qualifications received Rosenwald money spread over a five year period on a matching basis with Rosenwald grants decreasing each year.

The demonstration program was announced in May, 1929, and during that and the following year eleven counties in the Southeast qualified for participation in the program. Putting the demonstrations in operation in the counties presented many problems. Naturally the program required some sort of supervision on some level from professional librarians. Few of the states had library extension agencies so in most cases there was no one available on the state level to offer such assistance. The Southeastern Library Association was not organized to carry out such activity so no overall supervision at the regional level existed. In 1925 the American Library Association had added a full time director of extension activities to its headquarters staff. Although the national association did possess facilities to offer advice and assistance for extension activities, it had to cover the entire nation, and even before 1929 the extension director was unable to answer all requests for help. Thus, faced with the huge program to be financed by the Rosenwald Fund, the extension office indicated it could not, with its present staff, provide the necessary service for the Fund's program. The American Library Association began to consider adding a person to its staff who would serve as regional agent for the Southeast and who would serve as an advisor not only to the Rosenwald demonstrations but also to school library programs, who could aid in the establishment of state library extension agencies and promote library service generally in the region. The appointment of such a representative, patterned on the regional agents of the Peabody Fund and similar agencies, had been advocated as early as the 1926 meeting of the Southeastern Library Association.

The pleasure and elation southern librarians had felt at the announcement of the Rosenwald demonstrations began to dissipate as they heard rumors of the American Library Association's proposal to appoint a non-southerner as field agent. Watchful always of their rights, the Southerners felt this to be an infringement of their liberties. They wanted advice and assistance, but from a person of their own choosing, a person who would be familiar with conditions in the region, a person experienced in library work. These librarians were afraid that the American Library Association would go ahead and make an appointment without consulting the group and would select a person who did not understand the economic, geographi-

16. Jackson E. Towne. "The County Library Program of the Julius Rosenwald Fund." *Library Journal* 54:942, November, 1929.

cal, educational, and political factors inherent in southern problems. They wanted leadership, and, most emphatically, they wanted it to be Southern.

Naturally the southern librarians turned to their regional association for a solution to their problem. At the May, 1929, meeting of the American Library Association southern delegates met and discussed the problem. Time was too short and a solution seemed far away so finally the librarians began to make plans for a special meeting of Southeastern because it was not scheduled to meet until 1930.

At that time the University of North Carolina was making plans for the dedication of a new library building in October. The occasion would bring together many of the leaders of the region. Both the Southern Conference on Education and the North Carolina Library Association planned to hold meetings in connection with the dedication. Therefore, Dr. Wilson invited the Southeastern Library Association to hold its special meeting at that time also. Because many of the group would attend anyway, the dedication seemed to provide an ideal time for the meeting and so the invitation was accepted.

Close to one hundred representatives of the Southeastern Library Association attended the dedication. Throughout the three-day conference there was much discussion of the library needs of the South and of the course that library development in the region should take. Librarians mingled with educators and administrators and shared in the evaluation of the educational resources and potentialities of the South.

The meeting possessed great significance for the Southeastern Library Association since at this time the delegates authorized the appointment of a policy committee to serve in an advisory capacity on regional library projects. Specifically the committee was instructed to provide assistance and information to the Rosenwald Fund. Such a committee would alleviate to some extent the lack of permanent advisory agencies on local, state and regional levels. It would also afford the Association an opportunity to offer advisory service in spite of its informal organization.

The motion authorizing formation of the committee specified that its membership include representatives from "public libraries, college and school libraries, state extension agencies and library training institutions."<sup>17</sup> The seven member committee included Harold F. Brigham, Tommie Dora Barker, Whitman Davis, Helen Stelle, Fanny T. Taber, Thomas P. Ayer, and Mrs. Lillian B. Griggs.

Meanwhile, various forces were at work in the southern library movement. At last the educational foundations were showing signs of real interest and, apparently, a good chance existed to secure financial aid from them. Miss Templeton, then president of Southeastern, heard that the representatives of the General Education Board, the Carnegie Corporation, and the Rosenwald Fund were going to hold a meeting early in January with officials of the American Library Association to discuss the library programs of the foundations with special reference to conditions in the South, Frederick P. Keppel of the Carnegie Corporation and Wycliffe

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17. Typewritten report of the Chapel Hill meeting of the Southeastern Library Association, 1929; Letter from Charlotte Templeton, October 22, 1929.

Rose of the General Education Board being largely responsible for calling the meeting.

Quickly, Miss Templeton dispatched letters to members of the Policy Committee asking them to meet in Atlanta on December 21. In her letter she explained briefly the news she had received and stressed the importance of being able to send a fairly definite statement of southern needs to that January meeting of the foundations. The fact that the Rosenwald Fund had agreed to pay the expenses of the meeting of the policy committee indicated that the report prepared by the committee would be given favorable consideration.

The full committee assembled on the twenty-first and selected Harold Brigham and Miss Stelle to serve as chairman and secretary respectively. Miss Templeton opened the meeting by suggesting a tentative program that included a statement of the problems and possible avenues of attack. Then she warned the committee the South cannot afford haphazard, trial and error method of developing its library services; we have too much to make up, we have too great a distance to travel; our means are too slender for any part of them to be squandered on futile efforts.<sup>18</sup>

With this advice in mind the Committee began to draft a statement to be sent to the meeting in New York. The general discussions at Southeastern meetings of southern conditions, the papers presenting objectives, the planning carried on so informally, now bore fruit. The policy committee knew what the South needed to improve library service; they knew the weaknesses and something about possible remedies; all they had to do now was to express this knowledge in writing. This meeting, lasting less than a day, in a sense, culminated the previous efforts and work of Southeastern leaders. Here in Atlanta, late in 1929, a statement, later presented to the foundation leaders in New York, was prepared that outlined and paved the way for the library advances of the next years.

The southern library movement had staunch friends among the educational foundations. Frederick P. Keppel and Robert M. Lester of the Carnegie Corporation of New York; Wycliffe Rose, Jackson Davis, and Leo Favrot of the General Education Board; and S. L. Smith, Edwin R. Embree, and Clark Foreman of the Rosenwald Fund had listened sympathetically and encouragingly to the dreams and plans of southern librarians and could be counted on to support grants for library purposes. These men had studied the South and its needs and had long been interested in library service. They had, through their respective foundations, contributed to the establishment in 1925 at Hampton Institute of a library school for the training of Negro librarians. Each of these men had attended various library gatherings and committee meetings; in fact, Foreman had been present at the Atlanta meeting of the Policy Committee. Therefore, they had a good idea of the calibre of leadership of the library profession and were intimately acquainted with the planning that had been in process.

Keppel, Lester, Favrot, Davis, Foreman, and Embree were all present

18. Charlotte Templeton as quoted in Tommie Dora Baker [sic] "Libraries in the South," Southeastern Library Association, *Papers*, Sixth Biennial Conference 1930, p. 23.

when the foundation heads gathered in New York, as well as Trevor Arnett and David Stevens from the General Education Board. Library interests were represented by Jackson R. Towne who was then serving as special library consultant to the Rosenwald Fund and by Carl H. Milam and Sarah C. N. Bogle from the American Library Association.

At the meeting the report prepared by the Policy Committee was discussed in great detail and a line of action which divided responsibility among the foundations was accepted. In a sense, a fairly full statement of the report and the action taken by the foundations constitute a digression in the telling of the history of the Southeastern Library Association; however, the report summarized the planning the Association had been doing and therefore merits consideration.

According to the Policy Committee, education for librarianship deserved immediate attention. The rapid increase in courses in librarianship caused many people to fear that the development of such training would be haphazard and disorganized and not in accordance with national practices. The report stressed the desirability of a survey of facilities for library training in the South and specifically asked that Miss Bogle make the survey. The foundation representatives felt that such a survey was needed and shortly thereafter the Carnegie Corporation appropriated funds to finance it. The report of the survey, completed by Miss Bogle with the assistance of Miss Barker in 1930, was published in 1931, and it did prove of value. The actual experience of being "surveyed" helped the individual educational institutions in analyzing and co-ordinating their programs with others in the region, and, supplemented by the Southern Association's standards for library training institutions, did much to clarify thinking regarding education for librarianship in the South.

The policy committee pointed out the close relationship between state leadership and a strong public library program. The committee urged that "every effort should be made to obtain a library commission and a strong field worker in every state." At the time of the foundations' meeting such agencies were in existence only in Georgia, Kentucky, and North Carolina. The Rosenwald Fund representatives felt that by virtue of their demonstration program this recommendation fell in their province. Therefore, they agreed to assume responsibility and they ultimately made grants on a matching basis to Tennessee, Alabama, and South Carolina for some type of state extension service. Although this program was not really successful because not one of the three states continued the service immediately after the expiration of the Rosenwald grants, it did bring the actual provision of such services nearer.

Still in accordance with the general feeling of the desirability for supervision and co-ordination at the state level of various aspects of library service, the Policy Committee expressed the need for a school library supervisor in each state. Prior to 1929, the General Education Board had shown interest in this problem and had appropriated funds to support such a position in North Carolina, and as the discussion progressed the Board officials present indicated their willingness to offer similar aid to other states in the region. Eventually every state in the Southeast except Florida received a grant from the Board for school library supervisory



work, and in most of the states the supervisor's position was established through Board grants.

The report of the Policy Committee also pointed out the need for a regional field agent of the American Library Association. Establishment of such a position, suggested at the 1926 meeting of Southeastern, had been discussed for some time, and both the Southeastern Library Association and the American Library Association were in favor of it. The proposal was endorsed by the foundation officials also, and the Carnegie Corporation agreed to provide funds to launch the position. By the end of 1930 the position had been filled and it was maintained until 1936.

Recommendations regarding more specialized, or possibly localized, aspects of library service were included in the report. Libraries in institutions of higher education received a great deal of attention because of their generally inadequate collections. In this instance, all of the foundations showed signs of interest and officials present discussed a division of activities that would be of greatest benefit to all those concerned. Ultimately the Carnegie Corporation carried out an extensive program of assistance for the building up of the book collections in colleges, junior colleges, Negro colleges, and state agricultural and technological schools. Before the program was completed in the 1940's, the Southeastern institutions had received roughly \$480,000 from the Corporation. The Rosenwald Fund, being particularly interested in Negro education, instituted a program of aid for Negro college libraries, and by 1948 when the Fund was liquidated, it had spent approximately \$55,000 for that purpose. The General Education Board officials expressed an interest in research activities of the institutions and stated that they would like to concentrate their efforts in this area. Thus, their grants were primarily for the development of facilities to support research, and a number of years later they provided generous support for co-operative enterprises of southern university libraries and for the merger of library collections.

Closely connected with an expanded library program was the need for trained librarians; so the Policy Committee recommended that scholarships and fellowships be made available to librarians and those just beginning training in library science. Again all three foundations responded and at sometime or another each one awarded fellowships for study in library science.

This, then, was the program advanced by the Policy Committee and the reception it received. The program expressed that day in Atlanta was not an original one prepared by the Committee, for it resulted from many Southeastern meetings and individual conferences—meetings and conferences in which the weaknesses and inadequacies of southern library service had been analyzed in detail and where various solutions had been studied and rejected or accepted. Due to the earlier planning the Policy Committee did not have to cast around for objectives for its members knew rather well what needed to be done and previous activity and discussion on the part of the Association had prepared the foundations for the requests transmitted to them by the committee.

For some time after the meeting of the foundation officials, resentment was expressed within the membership of the Southeastern Library Association of the action taken by the Committee. Some members felt that the Committee exceeded its authority, that the matter was too important to be handled by so small a group and that the wishes of the member states were being overlooked. Actually, the committee had been appointed to "act in an advisory capacity" to the foundations and in the eyes of most people had simply carried out its assignment. For in reality the committee had merely stated formally the plans developed by the Association and transmitted those plans to the foundations and had not in any sense presented its "own" program. Also, as was pointed out in defense of the committee, the foundations' meeting was announced with such suddenness there was no time to call a special meeting of the Association. Although traces of bitterness and accusation can be found in correspondence well into the spring of 1930 all ill-will seems to have disappeared by the time the Association held its regular meeting in Tampa in November, 1930.

#### THE ASSOCIATION CARRIES OUT PLANS

By the time of the Tampa meeting financial support for the program outlined by the Policy Committee had been provided in some measure and most of the various projects were underway. Although the severe depression of the 1930's was settling upon the United States, and the libraries of the South were really feeling its pinch, the entire southern library movement was making greater strides in this period than it had at any other time.

Three papers highlighted the Tampa meeting. First, Miss Bogle reported<sup>19</sup> on the survey of library training in the Southeast and thus provided the background for a general discussion of her findings. Later, Miss Barker, who had been appointed regional field agent and was already serving in that capacity, summarized<sup>20</sup> library events of the past decade or so, giving attention to the work of the Policy Committee. Possibly her emphasis had some connection with the early resentment of the activities of the committee. In keeping with Southeastern tradition, Miss Barker outlined specific objectives for the future, among them being:

1. Certification of librarians
2. "Additional stimulating funds for county library development"
3. Enactment of better library legislation
4. State aid
5. Continued development of public opinion supporting libraries.

Then Dr. Wilson reported<sup>21</sup> on the status of the Southern Association standards, for the committee from Southeastern was still working closely with the Southern Association to get the standards into operation. The date they were to become effective had been postponed to allow schools time to meet the standards, however.

19. Sarah C. N. Bogle. "A Survey of the Library School Situation in the Southern States." Southeastern Library Association, *Papers*, Sixth Biennial Conference, 1930, p. 9-19.

20. Tommie Dora Baker [sic]. "Libraries in the South: A Record of Progress," *Ibid.*, p. 23-29.

21. Louis R. Wilson. "Report to the Southeastern Library Association of the Committee on Relations with the Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools of the Southern States," *Ibid.*, p. 64-69.



In 1932 the meeting of the Southeastern Library Association was planned around a theme representative of the times, "Conservation with Retrenchment and Planning for the Immediate Future." In a very real sense the librarians were evaluating what they had accomplished and were attempting to prevent any retrogression in spite of the stringent financial situation, for by now the depression had a firm hold on the United States.

A pre-conference session on library extension, attended by "state extension workers, presidents of state library associations, members of the policy committee of Southeastern Library Association and representatives of national and regional library associations, and other library interests" considered what the important objectives were in library extension for the next years and how they might be achieved.<sup>22</sup>

For the first time since the early meetings the program included some consideration of the Association itself. Miss Templeton reviewed<sup>23</sup> the history and accomplishments of the Association up to that time. Her paper has unusual historical value because it provides the most complete record available of the first years of the Association.

By now the Association had achieved a position approaching that held by other regional and professional bodies. Its work with the educational foundations and the Southern Association had strengthened its prestige, and it was quick to take advantage of that fact by working with additional organizations whenever possible.

On the initiative of the Regional Field Office of the American Library Association, Southeastern joined forces with that organization and the University of North Carolina to call, in the spring of 1933, a "Conference of Southern Leaders in religion, education, culture and social welfare" to consider the relationship of the agencies in those areas in a "well-founded community program, with special consideration given to the relation of the library to each."<sup>24</sup> This conference, held at Chapel Hill, April 7-8, 1933, resulted largely from Miss Barker's determination to bring together individuals who could contribute to the advance of library service in the South. Eighty-three representatives registered for the conference.

The Conference was especially important because it brought librarians and outstanding southern leaders together in discussion groups and around conference tables. Here at Chapel Hill, librarians benefited from the experience and knowledge of the various professional leaders, for emphasis was centered on the library as a social force. Economic and governmental trends were analyzed and the implications of such changes for library service were discussed. In conclusion, the Conference adopted a series of resolutions and recommendations which affirmed its belief in the dependence of democratic society on the various cultural institutions promoting education and wholesome living. The conference felt that the South could certainly support all such institutions and pointed out specific means whereby adequate support could be achieved.

The mutual concern with social conditions and joint consideration of

22. Southeastern Library Association. *Papers and Proceedings*, Seventh Biennial Conference, 1932, p. 62.

23. Charlotte Templeton, "The Southeastern Library Association, A Backward Look, *ibid.*, p. 11-20.

24. Editorial, *Library Journal* 58:400, May 1, 1933.

common problems benefited all the agencies represented. The conference proved especially valuable for library interests because the librarians appeared on an equal footing with other professional groups and had opportunity to demonstrate the seriousness as well as the strength of the library movement.

The Conference of Southern Leaders undoubtedly influenced the meeting of library leaders held at Clemson, South Carolina, in 1934 and the meeting of Southeastern held the same year. Much of the activity at the latter meeting involved consideration of the relationship of the library to social development and was obviously affected by new concepts of governmental responsibility and by changing ideas of social organization. Speakers kept referring to the national plan for library service, and considerable attention was given to the factors or points the state plans should cover. The entire meeting was permeated with the concept of regionalism although the theme was rather vaguely expressed as "New Library Patterns for the New Times."

The meeting was held jointly with the Southwestern Library Association. Because the states in the two associations faced similar problems, the delegates were able to combine their discussions to advantage. Although there have been moves to unite the meetings of the two associations on subsequent occasions, no similar conference has been held.

In continuance of the traditional Southeastern pattern of inventorying and planning, Dr. Wilson, then dean of the Graduate Library School, University of Chicago, was asked to return to the South and address the conference. He urged the associations to continue to "imagine vividly, to plan constructively for the future library development," and listed<sup>25</sup> as primary goals the following

1. A redefinition of library service in terms of the needs of the South
2. A more intensive and more objective study of southern library conditions
3. More extended and effective library training
4. The development of a plan which would insure adequate library service for elementary schools
5. A frontal attack upon the problem of the proper organization of the library resources for research in the South
6. The building up of library resources for research in the South
7. More reading materials which can be used by individuals whose level of reading ability is low
8. Continuation of the movement for the revision of library standards for high schools and colleges in the South
9. New legislation which would implement this library program.

The two associations endorsed the points in the program outlined by Dr. Wilson, recognizing especially the need for stress on development of library training, elementary libraries, and library legislation.

The concern with education for librarianship led the committees of the Southeastern Library Association and the Southwestern Library Association on Relations with the Southern Association to join the regional field agent of the American Library Association, in developing and calling a Conference on Education for Librarianship in the South. The con-

25. Louis R. Wilson. "New Objectives for Southern Librarians." Southeastern Library Association and Southwestern Library Association, *Papers, Joint Meetings*, 1939, p. 43-58.

ference, held in Atlanta on November 11-13, 1935, was attended by sixty-five librarians and educators who represented state, regional, and national institutions and agencies. The conference met just after the Southern Association standards went into effect<sup>26</sup> and about the time Miss Barker's service as field agent was concluded.<sup>27</sup> After long and thoughtful discussion the conference prepared a statement<sup>28</sup> expressing definite recommendations for southern library training programs. The recommendations were grouped under the following headings:

1. Library instruction needed for college students, teachers, and school administrators
2. Library instruction for school librarians with special reference to standards for school libraries of the Southern Association
3. Desirable developments in education for librarianship at the library school level.

This conference inaugurated a number of conferences concerned with the same problem. Interestingly, this first conference gave some attention to the need for southern facilities for graduate training in library science.

At the same time, some of the participants in the Conference on Education for Librarianship in the South held a second conference on federal aid. The discussion, led by Julia W. Merrill, Library Extension Division, American Library Association, Miss Barker, and Dr. Wilson, centered about the aid the states were already receiving through relief agencies and how the states might handle direct federal aid if it were secured.

Southeastern sponsored one other "extra curricular activity" prior to its regular 1936 meeting. When the American Library Association met in Richmond in May, 1936, the regional organization gave a dinner in honor of Dr. Wilson who was president of the national association at that time.

When the Southeastern Library Association held its regular biennial meeting in October, 1936, the body, under the guidance of the Policy Committee, reviewed the various library projects under way in the South and considered the objectives outlined at previous meetings. As part of the accounting of accomplishments, one general session of the conference was devoted to reviewing and discussing three recent books possessing exceptional significance for the South. One of the titles, *Southern Regions of the United States*, by Howard W. Odum,<sup>29</sup> analyzed those factors identifying and characterizing and, in a sense, unifying the group of states into a region. Because problems of the region were so closely connected with, even possibly inherent in its distinctive characteristics, it was especially fitting that the book be considered by the meeting. The other two titles dealt with the southern library situation specifically. The first, *Libraries of the South*, by Tommie Dora Barker,<sup>30</sup> reported her activities as field agent and summarized developments during that period. The

26. Due to economic conditions and other factors, enforcement of the standards had been postponed a number of times and they did not actually become effective until 1935.

27. The position was discontinued when Miss Barker resigned.

28. Tommie Dora Barker. *Libraries of the South*. Chicago, American Library Association, 1936, p. 195-198.

29. Howard W. Odum. *Southern Regions of the United States*. Chapel Hill, The University of North Carolina Press, 1936.

30. Tommie Dora Barker. *Libraries of the South*. Chicago, American Library Association, 1936.

second title, *County Library Service in the South*, by Louis R. Wilson and E. A. Wight<sup>31</sup> surveyed the Rosenwald demonstrations. Actually both of the titles were much more than mere reports, for each contained excellent historical as well as current material descriptive of the southern library situation. They also contained recommendations for further improvements in many phases of library service.

Much of the discussion at the 1936 meeting dealt with cooperative undertakings and library mergers designed to strengthen research facilities in the South. Steps toward the establishment of the Joint University Libraries, representing Vanderbilt, George Peabody College, and Scarritt College in Nashville, and the cooperative program between Duke University and the University of North Carolina as well as the various union catalogs being developed in the region came in for consideration. The Association also achieved active participation in the "cooperative trend" through its College and Reference Section's support of the work of the American Library Association's Committee on Resources of Southern Libraries. The Southeastern committee, under the chairmanship of Robert B. Downs, then librarian of the University of North Carolina, was responsible for a number of publications including the volume, *Resources of Southern Libraries*,<sup>32</sup> which describes in some detail the research collections found in the South and which has been especially valuable to reference librarians.

With the 1936 meeting, the period of planning drew to a close, and by 1938 the Southeastern Library Association had moved well into a transitional period. The advent of World War II and the cessation of professional meetings and conferences interrupted and, consequently, prolonged this period. Undoubtedly the move towards reorganization of the Association would have achieved fulfillment in a much shorter length of time if conditions had been more nearly normal.

#### THE ASSOCIATION IN TRANSITION

A pre-conference session devoted to federal aid for libraries exerted considerable influence on the 1938 session of Southeastern. By that time both the Tennessee Valley Authority and the Works Progress Administration had made southern librarians especially conscious of the relationship of the federal government to libraries. Federal works projects in library service had existed in the South since 1934 when Mississippi received the first assistance for such purposes. As the federal works program became better organized and specific provision was made for library projects the southern library movement benefited tremendously. Areas that had never received library service experienced it for the first time through WPA aid.

Likewise, the TVA Library Service Division was bringing library service to a section that had not previously received it. The TVA was also doing much to improve the quality of library service in the areas that it

31. Louis R. Wilson and E. A. Wight. *County Library Service in the South*. Chicago, University of Chicago Press, 1935.

32. Robert B. Downs, ed. *Resources of Southern Libraries*. Chicago, American Library Association, 1938.

covered. It pioneered in regional library development and united federal, state, and local activities in the library field. Therefore, although some misgiving and/or fear concerning the WPA and TVA programs existed, the two agencies had, at least, caused southern librarians to come in contact with the federal government as a factor in library service.

Much of the discussion at the conference in 1938 centered around the responsibility of governments, state and federal, for library programs, and a number of the papers given at the meeting dealt with specific governmental activities.

The proceedings of the 1940 meeting were never published and information about it is scanty. Apparently the interest in governmental programs continued, for E. A. Chapman who was head of the Library Section of the WPA gave one of the main papers at the meeting and discussed at length the activities of the Section. Interestingly, some attention at the meeting was given to the work of the American Library Association's Third Activities Committee which was studying the reorganization of the national body.

By 1940 sentiment for a change in the organization of Southeastern was strong enough to secure the attention of the conference. The informal organization that had worked perfectly in the 1920's when library facilities in the South were scattered and lacked leadership was beginning to seem weak and inadequate, and a general feeling apparently existed that the Association needed to change just as the library situation had changed. In accordance with that feeling the president appointed a committee to study the feasibility of the Association's employing an executive secretary and to formulate a constitutional amendment authorizing such an appointment. But by the time the Association was to meet again the nation was engaged in World War II and such meetings were being cancelled for the duration.

Although meetings were suspended, Southeastern did engage in a number of programs, particularly about the time the war ended. By 1946 when the Association held its first postwar meeting, it was actively engaged in joint sponsorship of a survey of the library situation in the South. The survey was sponsored by the Tennessee Valley Library Council (formed in 1940 in order to provide a body, representing extension agencies, school libraries, land grant colleges, and state library associations, that would work for the TVA) and the Southeastern Library Association in response to the invitation of TVA. In carrying out its library program the TVA needed data concerning library resources of the South and called on members of the Council to supply the information for their respective states. The variation in data thus secured led the Authority to seek means of obtaining comparable information from each state. Therefore, in the spring of 1946 the Authority wrote the Council proposing it undertake a "survey of the effectiveness of libraries in the Tennessee valley states."<sup>33</sup> Unquestionably, such a survey would require a great amount of work and the Council was not willing to commit itself until it had studied the situation carefully. A meeting of the Council was called specifically to consider

33. Jack Dalton. "Tennessee Valley Library Council Survey." *Southeastern Library Association, Papers, Proceedings, Twelfth Biennial Conference, 1946*, p. 29-32.



the request. Finally, the Council agreed to undertake the survey in order to secure, not a record of the holdings of southern libraries, but, a record of their effectiveness.

The Council was incorporated so that it could contract with the TVA for the conduct of the survey and it expanded its membership so that Florida and South Carolina could be included, making the constituent states of the Council coincident with those of the Southeastern Library Association and thus enabling the Association to participate in the survey.

By the time of the meeting of the Southeastern Library Association in Asheville in 1946, the executive committee of the Council under the chairmanship of Dr. Wilson had completed the preliminary planning and was ready to set up an office and secure a director to supervise the Southeastern States Cooperative Library Survey as it came to be designated. Marion A. Milczewski was selected to direct the survey and, shortly afterwards, the final work was completed on the questionnaires that were subsequently sent to the various libraries and library agencies in the South. The questionnaires were filled out and returned for consolidation in a final report which was published under the title *Libraries of the Southeast*.<sup>34</sup>

The Association also directed some attention to education for librarianship which was in a transitional stage in the 1940's. The library school curriculum was subjected to a thorough and searching study in a series of conferences held in Atlanta in 1945; Nashville, 1946; Tallahassee, 1947; and Atlanta, 1948. Southeastern joined with the Southern Association, library training agencies, and state school library supervisors in sponsoring the conferences. Largely as a result of these meetings, revised standards for school libraries were adopted by the Southern Association.

Thus, when the Southeastern Library Association met in 1946 the work being done on the Southeastern States Cooperative Library Survey and the participation in the conferences on education for librarianship provided proof that the Association had not been entirely dormant during the war period.

At this meeting, Miss Barker brought up-to-date her earlier papers and reports regarding library progress in the Southeast, concluding with the following recommendations<sup>35</sup> for future emphasis:

recruitment of librarians, state aid in larger amounts to provide library service for all the people, federal aid to equalize service between states and regions, extension and improvement of library service to Negroes, further development of cooperation among all libraries to the end that the total book resources of the region may be increased and made accessible to those who need them, and further development of larger units of library service in the interest of both economical and efficient service.

Miss Rothrock, then president of the American Library Association, spoke in more general terms of the relationship of libraries to southern progress and built her discussion around specific points raised by Dr. Wilson at Memphis in 1934. Then, she turned to the role that the South-

34. Louis R. Wilson and Marion A. Milczewski, eds. *Libraries of the Southeast*. Chapel Hill, The University of North Carolina Press, 1949.

35. Tommie Dora Barker. "Libraries in the Southeastern States, 1942-1946." *Southeastern Library Association, Papers, Proceedings*, Twelfth Biennial Conference, 1946, p. 25.



eastern Library Association would play in the future. The need for changes in the Association had been expressed in 1938, and now Miss Rothrock brought the question before the conference. She pointed out that the "Southeastern Library Association . . . [had] existed as a biennial conference, with a minimum of continuing machinery and with a very loose form of organization." Next, she posed the question that the Association had to face:

should it now consider reorganization into an actively functioning, continuing, regional association? . . . There would doubtless be certain losses if the spontaneity and the spirit of enjoyment were lost from a meeting such as this has been. On the other hand, there may be tasks that could be performed by a regional association, which would be difficult under our present form of organization.<sup>36</sup>

Apparently at this time no clear idea existed of the sort of organization Southeastern should have, but in 1946 machinery was set in operation to bring about changes in the Association. First, the committee appointed in response to the directive of the 1940 meeting reported an amendment providing for an executive secretary for the Association and for election by mail of officers in case the regular meeting could not be held. This amendment was accepted with slight modification in terminology. Next, the incoming president was instructed to appoint a publications committee to stimulate publication of library studies and a quarterly journal for the Association. Then, the Association went a step further and charged the incoming president with the appointment of an "activities committee which would include the revision of the Southeastern Library Association constitution among its duties."<sup>37</sup>

William H. Jesse, director of libraries, University of Tennessee, the new president, appointed the activities committee in consultation with the executive board of the Association. The membership of the committee included Marjorie Beal, Lucile Nix, Mary U. Rothrock, Louis Shores, and Jack Dalton, with the latter serving as chairman.

By the time Southeastern held its regular meeting in 1948, the American Library Association was considering reorganization and some feeling existed in favor of Southeastern's waiting to see what the American Library Association would do before it undertook reorganization. However, the majority of the delegates at Louisville felt that Southeastern had to make a change and that the proper time for such action had arrived. Therefore, although the discussion of the activities report was lively, the assembly voted unanimously to accept the report.

The report recommended that the Association "be reorganized to provide for annual meetings, a headquarters office, a full-time executive secretary, and a quarterly journal," keeping in mind that the "Association is nearly unanimous in its desire to maintain and strengthen its relationship with the American Library Association."<sup>38</sup> Although the report left the detailed plans for carrying out the recommendations to be prepared in consultation with the state associations, it did express clearly the

36. Mary U. Rothrock. "Libraries and the South Today." *Ibid.*, p. 59-60.

37. Southeastern Library Association. *Papers, Proceedings*, Twelfth Biennial Conference, 1946, p. 206.

38. Southeastern Library Association. *Papers and Proceedings*, Thirteenth Biennial Conference, 1948, p. 69-70.

functions assigned to the Association under the proposed reorganization. The "new" association was to be charged with the following responsibilities:

1. Coordination
2. Liason [sic]
3. Personnel
4. Clearing House
5. Standards
6. Bibliographical
7. Legislation
8. Federal Relations

The discussion of the proposed organizational changes was rivaled in liveliness and interest-appeal by consideration of the results of the Southeastern States Cooperative Library Survey. The report, almost ready for release, was summarized<sup>39</sup> in a special issue of the *Southern Packet* and distributed at the Louisville meeting. Therefore, the delegates had the findings before them as they talked about problems of library service. They read that whereas 73 percent of the total population of the United States was served by public libraries, only three of the southeastern states provided such service for that large a percentage of their population. They learned that one-third of the librarians in the South were sixty years old or older. They found that fewer than one in ten of the reporting school libraries met all the minimum standards formulated by the American Library Association. Although the report brought discouraging news in many cases, it provided accurate and reliable information for each state, and, equally important, the collection of data had been uniform, therefore, the results could be used for comparative purposes if so desired. The Survey was received so favorably that three of the states—Florida, Mississippi, and North Carolina—stimulated by their participation in the survey, carried the work further and published separate volumes for their respective states.

In keeping with the discussion of the survey results and the plans for reorganization, one of the general sessions was devoted to a panel discussion of a "Plan for Library Development in the South." Panel members included librarians as well as leaders from the TVA and agricultural and educational agencies. After discussing the need for planning and some of the changes the South was experiencing, the panel began to identify the library needs of the region. They felt the following<sup>40</sup> to be major problems:

1. Lack of income
2. Lack of trained personnel
3. Lack of cooperation between libraries serving a community
4. Competition in building special collections on the graduate level
5. Failure of libraries to adopt clear-cut objectives.

Southeastern adjourned in 1948 definitely committed to major reorganization and the new president, Clarence R. Graham, librarian, Louisville Free Public Library, was faced with the appointment of committees to effect the change. In the summer of 1949 he appointed an activities committee of nine members under the chairmanship of Louis Shores,

39. Mary U. Rothrock. "Nine States Look at Their Libraries." *The Southern Packet* 4, October, 1948.

40. Southeastern Library Association. *Papers and Proceedings*, Thirteenth Biennial Conference, 1948, p. 67.

dean of the library school, Florida State University, to develop the detailed plans for the reorganization. To keep the activities committee in close touch with the wishes and feelings of their constituents, each state association was asked to appoint a committee to serve in an advisory capacity to its representative on the activities committee.

The activities committee held its first meeting at the regional meeting of the American Library Association in the fall of 1949. The committee began to take definite steps toward reorganization of the Association at this time. It asked the executive board to appoint a liaison committee whose duty it would be to secure funds and negotiate contracts for the organization. In order that the Association could receive such funds, the activities committee asked that it (the Association) be incorporated. Also at Miami, the writing of the constitution, the selection of an executive secretary, and the establishment of headquarters were turned over to sub-committees for consideration. When the activities committee left Miami, its members had outlined their work and by the time of the second meeting of the committee they could report real progress.

The second meeting of the committee was held in conjunction with the mid-winter meeting of the American Library Association in 1950. A proposed constitution was submitted and discussed; then a revised one was prepared in line with suggestions offered at the meeting.

In the meantime, an invitation to establish headquarters at the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta had been accepted; Mrs. Dorothy Crossland, librarian of that institution, had been appointed acting executive secretary in December, and on March 13, 1950, the Association was incorporated. Therefore, when the members of the activities committee met the third time, they gathered in Atlanta. At this time they decided to mail a report of what had been accomplished to those in attendance at the 1948 meeting so that when the 1950 conference assembled it would be in better position to discuss the work of the activities committee.

Financial support for the proposed organization posed a major problem. Obviously, outside sources of funds would have to be tapped because money secured from dues, exhibit fees, advertisements in the projected journal, and similar sources would not be adequate to maintain the new organization. Therefore, the liaison committee worked to conclude a contract with TVA—a contract for library projects for which the Authority would provide money and the Association would contribute advisory service, personnel, and headquarters.

When the Association met in Atlanta in October, 1950, the sub-committee on the constitution, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Augusta Richardson, librarian, Corinth, Mississippi, had the constitution ready for approval and the liaison committee, under the direction of William H. Jesse, had a contract with the TVA ready for signatures.

Discussion of the constitution in all its ramifications, including the contract occupied three general sessions, all long ones, all well attended. Although comments and questions multiplied and even though sentiment seemed to favor the proposals, opposition to details and, in some cases, even to purpose, was vigorously expressed. At one critical point President

Graham asked Dr. Wilson to express his views. In response to his own question, "If we have done so well in a loose organization in the past, why . . . change it?" Dr. Wilson answered that new conditions necessitated a new form of organization. He pointed out that the Southern Association had not only streamlined its name, but it had also modernized its procedures as well, and if the Southeastern Library Association was going to contract with other organizations for specific services and perform specific functions, it would have to tighten its organization accordingly.<sup>41</sup>

This statement seemed to dispel any opposition to the principle towards which the committees had been working and, although the discussion was still heated, the meeting seemed to have achieved a unity of purpose it had not previously possessed.

The constitution was accepted by the Association to go into effect when ratified by five states. Georgia and South Carolina approved it before the last session of the meeting and their ratification was announced before the adjournment of the conference on October 14. Virginia, Mississippi, and Kentucky next ratified in that order; Kentucky's approval on November 4, 1950, brought the total to the five states necessary for the acceptance of the document.

The contract with TVA was approved and signed in 1950; however, the Korean War led TVA to cancel all non-essential contracts and the contract with the Southeastern Library Association fell into that category; therefore, it was not continued after June, 1951. For that reason, the original plans for the revised organization had to be modified, but the story of that belongs with the history of the "new" Southeastern.

#### A BACKWARD LOOK

The old Southeastern Library Association was gone. For thirty years it had played its part in the southern library movement. Its history during that time falls into three fairly distinct periods, plus a few sub-periods, differentiated both by type of activity and leadership.

The beginning and the organizational period lasted through the 1924 meeting at Asheville. In those first years the Association secured a foothold, won friends to supply enough support to enable it to take action, and began to find its leaders. Unquestionably, this period developed under the leadership of Miss Templeton and Miss Rothrock with Knoxville serving as something of a center for Southeastern planning.

With the 1926 meeting at Signal Mountain, Southeastern embarked upon the most productive of its years, 1926 through 1934. During this time the Association experienced its rich years of dreaming and planning. Actually this period covered the decade 1926-1936, but in 1934 the planning began to take a new direction. Probably this change of pace was necessitated by the number of projects underway and by economic conditions. Dr. Wilson emerged as the dominant figure during this period, and although he left the South in 1932 and did not return until 1942,

<sup>41</sup>. Louis R. Wilson, quoted in "SELA Proceedings," *Southeastern Librarian* 2:15, Spring, 1951.

he retained a position of leadership in the Association. Chapel Hill became one of the important centers from which the Association operated. During this period also, Miss Barker's leadership was felt increasingly, and, in the latter part, Atlanta became a headquarters for Association planning. The years between 1934 and 1938 resembled a "mopping-up" period more than a planning one. Foundation grants were being withdrawn and library leaders were attempting, with gratifying success, to secure local funds to continue the programs that had been supported by grants. TVA and WPA were beginning to lend their support and the Association was concluding the work begun at Signal Mountain in 1926.

The next period, the transitional one, was unnecessarily long. By 1938 the need for a change in the organization of Southeastern was beginning to be felt and in 1940 the first step was taken in that direction; then came the war and long postponement. In 1946 when biennial meetings were resumed, the moves toward change were continued and the process was finally completed in October, 1950. Possibly the successful program of the old organization had something to do with the reluctance with which it was abandoned. The transitional period brought with it a new leadership. The original leaders still carried great weight, but the burden was now falling on a new generation led by Jack Dalton, William Jesse, Mrs. Dorothy Crosland, and Louis Shores.

The old Southeastern had sought constantly to study conditions in the South, to analyze the library situation, and to determine what could be done to improve library conditions in the region. This constant identification of problems and search for solutions runs throughout the thirty years of its existence and explains, to some extent, why the Association was able to plan and execute its programs so successfully.

Yes, the old Southeastern Library Association is gone—that is to say the old form of organization or lack of organization is gone—for the Association possessed enough perception to understand that it had served its purpose. Evidence of the success of the old organization can be found in the state library extension agencies, the school library supervisors, the library schools, and the individual libraries that owe much of their existence and effectiveness to planning of the Southeastern Library Association.

(To Be Continued)



## Committee Reports

### THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Southeastern Library Association Constitution, By-Laws (Article 3, Section 1) states: "The officers of the Association shall be elected biennially by mail ballot four months before the biennial meeting. The names of the nominees shall be announced at least six months prior to the Biennial meeting."

The Nominating Committee of SELA, composed of one member from each state, submits its nominees for officers of the Association for 1956-1958, as follows:

#### Vice-President (President-Elect)

Hoyt Galvin, Director  
Public Library of Charlotte  
and Mecklenburg County  
Charlotte, North Carolina

Lucile Nix  
Chief Library Consultant  
State Department of Education  
Atlanta Department of Education  
Atlanta, Georgia

#### Treasurer

Sterling Bagby, Librarian  
Halifax County, Public Library  
Halifax, Virginia

Mrs. Augusta Richardson  
Director  
Northeast Regional Library  
Corinth, Mississippi

The members of the Nominating Committee are: Fannie Schmitt, Alabama; Archie L. McNeal, Florida; Sara Hightower, Georgia; Elizabeth Gilbert, Kentucky; Mrs. Augusta

Richardson, Mississippi; Nancy Burge, South Carolina; William H. Jesse, Tennessee; Ernestine Grafton, Virginia; and Cora Paul Bomar, North Carolina, Chairman.

### CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

#### PROPOSED REVISIONS

in

#### CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE SOUTHEASTERN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION

#### ADD NEW ARTICLE: SECTIONS

The sections of the Association shall be Southeastern Regional Group of Catalogers, College and University Librarians, County and Regional Librarians, Public Librarians, Reference Librarians, School and Children's Librarians, and Trustees and Friends of the Library. New Sections may be formed upon recommendation of the Executive Board and a three-fourths majority vote of the membership present and voting at a business meeting of the official biennial conference. After approval the name of the new section shall be listed in this section of the constitution.

#### ADD NEW ARTICLE:

#### CHAPTER IN AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

This Association shall become a Chapter of the American Library Association and shall elect the representatives to which it is entitled as provided in the By-Laws of the American Library Association.



ADD this sentence to Article 5 of the Constitution:

One of the meetings held during a two-year period shall be designated the official biennial meeting.

ARTICLE 5. MEETINGS shall then read:

There shall be meetings of the Association at such time and place as may be determined by the Executive Board. There shall be at least one meeting every two years. One of the meetings held during a two-year period shall be designated the official biennial meeting.

If the two new Articles are approved change numbering of Articles to the following order:

- Article 5. Sections
- Article 6. Meetings
- Article 7. Chapter in American Library Association
- Article 8. Amendments
- Article 9. Adoption of Constitution

#### BY-LAWS

CHANGE ARTICLE 3 to read:  
ARTICLE 3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE BOARD. ADD as second sentence in Section I ARTICLE 3. Election of Officers and Executive Board.

The names of those who have paid their dues by April first of the election year shall constitute the active membership eligible to receive the lists of nominees and to vote in the mail ballot.

CHANGE present second sentence in Section 1 ARTICLE 3 to sentence three to read:

The names of the nominees shall be announced at least six months prior to the official biennial meeting in the official publication of the As-

sociation or by separate written communication to all members.

CHANGE last sentence of present Section I ARTICLE 3 to read:

The American Library Association Councilors shall be elected by the members of the Southeastern Library Association as provided in the Constitution of the American Library Association.

ARTICLE 3, Section 1 shall then read:

#### ARTICLE 3 — ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 1. The officers of the Association shall be elected biennially by mail ballot four months before the official biennial meeting. The names of those who have paid their annual dues by April first of the election year shall constitute the active membership eligible to receive the list of nominees and to vote in the mail ballot.

The names of the nominees shall be announced at least six months prior to the official biennial meeting in the official publication of the Association or by separate written communication of all members. The American Library Association Councilors shall be elected by the membership of the Southeastern Library Association as provided in the Constitution of the American Library Association.

CHANGE ARTICLE 3 Section 2a to read:

The members of the Executive Board shall be elected by the SELA members in the individual states by a mail vote four months prior to the biennial meeting.

ADD this sentence to ARTICLE 3 Section 2a:

There shall be at least two candidates for each place on the Executive Board.

ARTICLE 3 Section 2a shall then read:

The members of the Executive Board shall be elected by the SELA members in the individual states by a mail vote four months prior to the biennial meeting. There shall be at least two candidates for each place on the Executive Board.

ADD TO ARTICLE 3 Section 2b the sentence:

Vacancies on the Executive Board shall be filled by the Executive Board from the active membership of the Association in the state represented by the vacancy until a nominating committee can be set up in the state to fill the vacancy.

#### ARTICLE 3 — ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Section 2b shall then read:

Membership shall be determined by a list of SELA members sent by the Executive Secretary to the SELA Executive Board member of each state. A Committee composed of the Executive Board member, the state member of the SELA nominating committee, a third SELA member selected by these two shall appoint the nominating committee from three to five members. Vacancies on the Executive Board shall be filled by the Executive Board from the active membership of the Association in the state represented by the vacancy un-

til a nominating committee can be set up in the state to fill the vacancy.

DELETE from the first sentence ARTICLE 5. COMMITTEES The words, "for the term of two years."

DESIGNATE as Section 1. ARTICLE 5. COMMITTEES

The President shall appoint all committees with the approval of the Executive Board. The President shall serve as ex-officio member of all committees, except the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall be composed of one member from each state. No member of the Executive Board shall be a member of the Nominating Committee.

ADD as Section 2. to ARTICLE 5. the following:

Section 2. The President with the approval of the Executive Board may establish Committees to consider matters of the Association which require some continuity of attention and members. Members of all standing committees may be appointed for terms of two or four years as the President may designate. Members may be reappointed for a second term but not a third consecutive term. The terms of approximately half the members shall expire each two years.

ARTICLE 5. COMMITTEES SHALL then read:

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terms of approximately half the members shall expire each two years.

**Committee Members:**

Mildred Johnston  
Archie McNeal  
Geraldine LeMay  
Elizabeth Gilbert  
Annabelle Koonce  
Gladys Johnson  
Margaret Dickson  
Margaret Mahon  
Mrs. Margie Malmberg  
Lucile Nix, Chairman

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# *Southeastern Library Association*

EXECUTIVE OFFICE:

GEORGIA SCHOOL OF TECHNOLOGY LIBRARY, ATLANTA

## Headquarters' Page . . .

In this issue of the *SOUTHEASTERN LIBRARIAN* you will note a report from the Constitution Committee concerning certain proposed changes. Miss Lucile Nix is chairman of this Committee. The proposed changes will be voted on at the biennial meeting in Roanoke next October.

Elections have been held or are now being held in 6 of our 9 states in the region for the election of new Executive Board members who will take office next October. Up until this year 3 new members have been elected each biennium but due to the way in which the terms were set up when the Constitution was adopted there will be 6 vacancies to be filled this year. The following Executive Board members have been elected to fill these vacancies: Florida—Miss Clara Wendell, Alberton Public Library, Orlando; Georgia—Miss Evelyn Fritz, University of Georgia, Athens; South Carolina—Mr. Herbert Hucks, Wofford College, Spartanburg; Virginia—Miss Roy Land, University of Virginia, Charlottesville. We have not as yet heard the results of the elections in Alabama and Tennessee. As you know the Southeastern members in each state elect their own representatives on the Board.

In this issue you will also note the report of the Nominating Committee. They have presented a fine slate of candidates. The Vice-President-Pres-

ident Elect, Mr. Randolph Church, of the Virginia State Library, will be the incoming President. We elect a Vice-President-President Elect and a Treasurer. We appreciate the willingness of the candidates to serve the Southeastern Library Association in this way.

The Education Committee met in Chapel Hill for a discussion of programs of education for librarianship in the Southeastern area. All reports indicate it was a most worthwhile meeting.

Mr. Clift, Executive Secretary of the American Library Association, has written, "It is my pleasant duty to inform you officially that by action of the ALA Council on February 3, 1956 in Chicago, the Southeastern Library Association was redesignated as a regional ALA chapter.

"As a redesignated regional chapter, the Southeastern Library Association will not be entitled to separate representation on the ALA Council, due to the fact that the separate associations within the region have chosen to take their representation as individual chapters.

"We look forward to a more significant relationship between the ALA and its redesignated chapters under the current ALA Constitution and Bylaws."

Nancy Jane Day  
President



## BOOKS

*Notes of books written by Southeastern librarians, published by Southeastern libraries, or about Southeastern libraries.*

A significant addition to the mass of books currently being published about the Civil War and the Confederacy is *Confederate Imprints: A Check List Based Principally on the Collection of the Boston Athenaeum* by Marjorie Lyle Crandall, who was the Assistant Librarian of the Boston Athenaeum from 1946-1954.

In the introduction Walter Muir Whitehill, Director and Librarian of the Athenaeum, who conceived and directed the project, admirably portrays the building of the magnificent collection of Confederate Imprints in the Athenaeum. Scarcely had the cannon cooled after Appomattox before Francis Parkman was in Richmond with funds and instructions from the Athenaeum to purchase everything relating to the Confederacy that he could lay his hands on—books, broadsides, newspapers, pamphlets, and Confederate money, stamps, and bonds. The fact that he was able to buy eleven Confederate bonds for twenty-five cents speaks well for the effectiveness of the Union Army during the earlier months of the year.

The librarian of the Athenaeum, William Frederick Poole, energetically continued to collect Confederate materials through agents, correspondence, and advertisements in Southern newspapers. His successors have missed no opportunity to add to the collection, for the Athenaeum aspires toward completeness in Confederate Imprints.

W. Stanley Hoole, John Cook Wyllie, and Richard B. Harwell were among those who helped to determine the form and scope of the project. The scope covers all Confederate books and pamphlets in the Boston Athenaeum, those listed in the Union Catalog of the Library of Congress, and those reported to the Athenaeum by their owners. In all, the holdings of 216 libraries and 16 private collections are represented. Periodicals and newspaper holdings of only the Athenaeum are included. The whole forms a 910-page, two-volume set, listing a total of 5,302 items.

It is of interest to note that of the nine libraries having substantial collections of Confederate Imprints, the following have in excess of a thousand titles each: The Athenaeum, 2,676; the Library of Congress, 1,678; Emory University, 1,595; Duke University, 1,224; and the Huntington Library, 1,143.

The arrangement is, insofar as possible, by subject with an author index. The first volume is devoted to the official publications of the Confederate Government by branch and department and those of the individual states in the same order. The second volume contains the non-official publications produced in the Confederacy arranged by subject and form.

Miss Crandall began preparation of this check-list nine years ago and it is her work with the exception of the section on sheet music which was pre-

pared by Richard Barksdale Harwell. Mr. Harwell receives fine recognition for his contribution in the introduction by Dr. Whitehill and in the "Acknowledgments" by Miss Crandall. Miss Crandall had the cooperation and assistance of many other people and among them were the following Southern librarians: Graham Roberts, Jay Lavaas and Mattie Russell, of the Duke University Library; Lawrence F. London and Mary L. Thornton, of the University of North Carolina Library; John Cook Wyllie, of the University of Virginia Library; and Ray O. Hummel, Jr., of the Virginia State Library.

This well-edited and attractively made set contains the most exhaustive bibliographical record of any nation. It lists the printed pages that are now the remaining record of a country whose way of life was destroyed and whose citizens with few exceptions have vanished with the accumulating years. It is, as Mr. Harwell has ably written, "Of major importance as the bibliography of a segment of Americana and of interest to students as recording books in

a wide variety of subject fields, it may well prove to be the most nearly complete national bibliography ever compiled."<sup>1</sup>

A collotype reproduction of the *Southern Collegian* extra published on the day of General Robert E. Lee's burial, October 15, 1870, is the latest publication in the *Sources & Reprint* series of the Emory University Library. This copy of the student newspaper at Washington College, preserved in the Emory Library, gives an account of the death and burial of General Lee.

The contents of this issue of the paper is of great human and historical interest. That it has been made more widely available than was possible in the original state is all to the good. The value of the reproduction is enhanced by a very readable introduction prepared by Richard B. Harwell. In it he pays a fitting tribute to Lee's courage, character, and ability as soldier, educator, and citizen.

W. PORTER KELLAM

1. Richard Barksdale Harwell, "Confederate Imprints," *Stechert-Hafner Book News* 8:90, April, 1954.





## ... VARIA

### PERSONAL

Mary Clark, assistant director of the Augusta (Georgia) Library, has won first prize of \$50.00 for a short story submitted in the Georgia Writers' Association annual contest. Miss Clark's story entitled "The Miracle," is about an 8-year-old-girl's awakening to life. It was entered in the amateur division of the competition.

Virginia Yates, Emory '38 and A.M. George Washington, became extension librarian at the Augusta Library on February 1. Previous to going to Augusta Miss Yates was the librarian at the Andrews Air Force Base.

Faye Mitchell returned to the Clemson College Library on January 16 as acquisitions librarian. She was formerly assistant in the Circulation Department but left that position to enter the U. S. Army Special Services. During her absence from Clemson she was librarian of the Psychological Warfare School at Fort Bragg.

The new officers of the Virginia Library Association are: president, Roy Land, circulation librarian, University of Virginia; first vice-president, Ada Whyte, supervisor of libraries, Norfolk Public Schools; second vice-president, Arthur Kirkby, librarian, Norfolk Public Library; secretary, Sterling Bagby, librarian, Halifax County Library; and treasurer, Felsie Riddle, supervisor of libraries, Martinsville Public Schools.

Mrs. Bettie Wall Daly is the new

librarian of the Anderson (South Carolina) Public Library. She is a native South Carolinian but went to Anderson from the Free Public Library of Cranford, New Jersey.

Mrs. Evelyn Rutledge has resigned as librarian of the LaGrange (Georgia) Memorial Library to become director of the Dalton Regional Library, comprising Whitfield and Catoosa counties.

Frances Gish, who has directed the Dalton (Georgia) Regional Library for the past few years has returned to state library extension work, having accepted a position as field librarian on the staff of the North Carolina Commission.

Mary Love, field librarian in the Jackson Elementary Schools, was elected president of the Mississippi Library Association for the next two years at the Association's meeting last fall. The other officers are: vice-president, Jeanne Broach, Meridian Public Library; and secretary-treasurer, Sybil Hanna, Jackson Municipal Library.

Cecil R. McLeod, Western Reserve University Library School alumnus, replaced Forrest H. Palmer as serials librarian at North Carolina State College. He recently held positions at Florida State University and Detroit Public Library.

Mrs. Dorothy Dunn Henderson assumed her duties as assistant director of the Barrow-Jackson-Walton Regional Library (Georgia) on January 1. Mrs. Henderson was formerly with the Veteran's Administration,

having had charge of hospital libraries in Atlanta and Augusta.

Mrs. Ella Sue Smith is librarian of the Depot Library, U. S. Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina.

Susan Grey Akers, former dean of the School of Library Science, University of North Carolina, will return to the School this summer to teach cataloging during the first term. Mary Frances Kennon, an alumna of the school currently employed as School Library Specialist in Baltimore, Maryland, will teach school library courses the first term.

Folkway Records has recently issued a new long playing record of poetry read by Arna Bontemps, librarian of Fisk University. Its title is *Anthology of Negro Poets in the U.S.A., 200 Years*.

Lila Rice, former assistant director of the (Georgia) Flint River Regional Library, was made director of the Meriwether-Talbot-Upson Regional Library on October 1.

Mrs. Virginia Green Moody, librarian of the South Carolina State Library for the past forty-one years, died suddenly on December 10, 1955.

Ila Mae Taylor, chairman of the Library Science Department, and John Justice, member of the History Department, both of the Appalachian State Teachers College faculty (Boone, N. C.) were married in Houston, Texas, on December 21, 1955.

SELA President, Nancy Jane Day, has been named chairman of an ALA committee to study undergraduate programs in library science. This committee is a sub-committee of the Board of Education for Librarianship.

Mrs. Harry W. McGalliard, alumna of the Library School of the University of North Carolina, has replaced Donald K. Wilson as reference

librarian at North Carolina State College. Mr. Wilson has gone to Japan as a civilian librarian working with the U. S. Army Air Forces.

The former Jane Oliver, Georgia State Librarian, was married to Thomas F. Green, Jr., on December 8, 1955. Mr. Green is professor of law at the University of Georgia, and they have made their home in Athens since March 1.

Gertrude Coward, director of the public school libraries in Charlotte and Annie Graham Caldwell, supervisor of school libraries in Winston-Salem will be visiting members of the summer school faculty in library science at the University of South Carolina.

Lloyd Collier, chairman of the Columbus County Public Library Board, Whiteville, North Carolina, was presented a citation naming him the "Outstanding Handicapped Man of the Year" from President Eisenhower's Committee on Employment of Handicapped Persons.

Mrs. H. H. ChiuLiu assumed her duties as librarian of Shorter College in Rome, Georgia, at the beginning of the fall session. She succeeds Mary Jeanette Agan who has joined the staff of the Atlanta Public Library.

Two members of the Winthrop Library staff will return to the University of Michigan this summer to complete degrees in library science. Susie McKeown, cataloguer, plans to complete work for a two-year M.A., and Mrs. Sara Bird, periodicals librarian, plans to complete a first year M.A. A third member of the Winthrop Library staff, Annette Shinn, circulation and reference librarian, has been granted a leave of absence for the first semester, 1956-57, to work on her second M.A. at Emory.

Mrs. Howard Pursell, director of the Chestatee Regional Library at

Gainesville, Georgia, and also chairman of the Gainesville Committee on World Affairs, was one of four persons from seven Southeastern states invited to attend the annual meeting of the Foreign Policy Association in Washington, D. C., on December 2-5, 1955.

Mrs. Bessie W. Scott, who has been a field librarian with the North Carolina Library Commission, has accepted a position as first assistant in charge of extension in a public library in Ohio.

Emmett E. Goodwin assumed his duties as chief, Acquisitions Branch, Air University Library, last December. Mr. Goodwin holds B.S., M.A., and B.S. in L.S. degrees, and has completed much of the work toward a Ph.D. degree at Ohio State University.

Sarah H. Moore has joined the staff of the Middle Tennessee State College Library as a cataloger. Miss Moore was formerly connected with the city schools of Murfreesboro and prior to that had been director of library service with the Memphis City Schools.

Dewey Franklin Pruett, Jr., was awarded an Alabama Library Association Loan Scholarship of \$1,000.00 for the academic year 1955-1956. He is enrolled in the Library School of the University of North Carolina. His home is in Birmingham, and he was formerly employed at the Birmingham Public Library.

Margaret Johnston, formerly librarian of the Haygood County Library, North Carolina, has resigned to accept the position of librarian of the Rockingham County Library in Leaksville.

Margaret Taylor, head of the Boy's and Girl's Room at Lawson McGhee Library for twenty-five years, retired

October 8, 1955. She is now living at Tarboro, North Carolina.

W. Stanley Hoole, director of libraries, University of Alabama, is the editor-in-chief of the Confederate Centennial Studies, an historical monograph series on the Civil War. Each study will be a separate, independent, scholarly publication, printed on fine paper and attractively bound.

Mrs. Walter Gray, formerly field librarian of the North Carolina Library Commission, has gone to the Durham Public Library as Coordinator of Services.

Jay Stein, librarian of the Burrow Library, Southwestern at Memphis, has conducted a program about books over Memphis Television Station WMCT. Aimed at increasing appreciation of and interest in books and libraries, it had good audience response.

Laura Fleming joined the University of Georgia Library staff as first assistant catalog librarian on January 1, 1956. Miss Fleming is a native of South Carolina and holds degrees from Presbyterian College and the University of North Carolina. She has held positions in the libraries at Clemson College, Wake Forest College, and the University of Alabama.

Benjamin Smith, superintendent of city schools, Greensboro, North Carolina, addressed the School Library Section of the South Carolina Education Association in Columbia on March 16. Mrs. Winifred Poole of Cross Anchor is chairman of the section.

Mrs. Drayton Mayrant Simons, well-known South Carolina author, was the main speaker for the annual meeting of the South Carolina High School Library Assistants Association held at Winthrop College on March 9.

Josephine Zinceau is the new assistant director of the Montgomery Public Library. A native of Wisconsin, she received her library education at Florida State University.

Miss Boyce Broadus, president of the Birmingham Library Club, headed the receiving line at a tea in honor of Chester Lewis, chief librarian of the New York Times, when he visited Birmingham recently. Mr. Lewis was the speaker at the Special Libraries luncheon held at The Club, high atop Red Mountain, overlooking the city.

Western Kentucky State College has made the following changes in library personnel: Margie M. Helm is now director of library services, moving to that post from the head librarianship; Sara Tyler, formerly assistant librarian, is head librarian; Mrs. Sarah Rodes Graham, previously head of the periodical room, has succeeded Miss Tyler; and Elizabeth Coombs who was assistant librarian is now librarian of the Kentucky Library, succeeding Mrs. Mary Moore, retired. These appointments were made as part of an expanded program of library services at the college and became effective February 1, 1956.

#### THIS AND THAT

The author index to *Microfilm Abstracts* compiled by the Georgia Chapter of Special Libraries Association has been completed. A copy may be obtained by sending two dollars to Pauline Nelson, 2080 North Decatur Road, N. E., Atlanta 7, Georgia.

A marker has been erected by the Historical Commission of Charleston, S. C., near the site of the old Memminger High School on St. Philip Street. It marks the site of the first public lending library in the American Colonies. "The Provincial Li-

brary established in 1698 was in St. Philip's Church parsonage which stood on this site until 1858 when a girl's school was built thereon."

As a result of a story published in the *Florence Morning News* which confused standards with censorship, the South Carolina State Library Board has been under attack recently for "rigid censorship of children's books." It is assumed that the charges resulted from a list titled "Books Not Circulated by Standard Libraries," included in the *County Manual* in 1948 for the guidance of untrained librarians. The list was made up of twenty-five series books long recognized by librarians as substandard. A member of the General Assembly has announced that he will introduce a resolution calling for an investigation of what he calls "censorship" of books by the Board. Newspapers throughout the State and in adjoining states have come to the defense of the Board, editorially and in news columns, in an effort to convey the message to the public that the list was issued to improve standards of book collections. The Board has issued an official statement, also, declaring that it is not their policy to exercise censorship of reading. The cause of the charges is not known.

Public, school and college libraries in Greenville and Greenville County, South Carolina, cooperated recently in a project to get missing books returned. Boxes were provided throughout the city and books could be returned with no questions asked. Newspapers gave their full support and the results were rewarding.

The South Carolina State Library Board has recommended that the General Assembly consider a plan to combine the duties of the State Library and the State Library Board in a new agency to improve service

to the members of the legislature and the people of the State.

Gwinn H. Nixon has been selected by the Augusta (Georgia) Library Board to spearhead a movement to secure a modern library building for that library system's headquarters. The Board is negotiating to secure the site of the present City Hall, which is well located for library purposes and will be abandoned upon the completion of the new City-County Building. The committee has begun preliminary studies to determine space needs, type of building, methods of finance and other details.

The library of the University of North Carolina has been given 75 motion picture scripts. Eight of the scripts were donated by Paul Green. The others were obtained for the library by Green, Kay Kyser, and Earl Wynne and John Ekle of the UNC Department of Radio, Television and Motion Pictures.

The Chattanooga Public Library celebrated its Fiftieth Anniversary in five days of activities, October 10-15, 1955. In its scope, purpose, and achievement, the program stands out as an excellent example of library-city cooperation in publicizing a public institution.

The Tennessee Library Association's tentative plan for use of federal funds if the Public Library Services bill is passed proposes that the funds be used for: 1) additional staff in the Public Libraries Division of the State Library and Archives to assist in organizing and supervising the full program; 2) programs to improve public library service to the rural population of metropolitan counties; 3) additional personnel, books and services in regional centers already established; 4) assistance to counties now in the regional program but which are unable to fulfill mini-

mum requirements set in 1950; and 5) extension of regional library program by demonstrations in counties not now participating.

Libraries in Anderson, Campbell and Knox counties are cooperating with a Workshop on Human Relations to be held in Clinton, Tennessee, during the spring of 1956. They will work with W. D. Varnell of the Psychological Clinic of the Knox County Schools, who will act as consultant to the workshop. He will also serve as consultant at a Program Planning Workshop, sponsored by the Community Club Institute of Knox County in which Emma Suddarth, librarian of Knox County, and Helen Kittrell and Minnie McCloud, librarians in the Clinch-Powell Regional Library program, will assist in a community leaders' demonstration.

At North Carolina College at Durham, the James E. Shepard Memorial Library is continuing its series of Film Viewing - Discussion Group meetings which was started in 1953. As in the past, persons from the community as well as the college family are attending the meetings. The films scheduled for March 26 and April 9, respectively, are "Due Process of Law" and "That All Men Are Created Equal."

The \$400.00 scholarship established by the Jefferson County Student Library Assistants Organization at the University of Alabama has been awarded to Lorie Andress, a senior from Troy. This scholarship can be borrowed by a junior or senior at Alabama who is majoring in library science. Money to increase this scholarship loan fund is made each year from the annual tour of libraries or of a University campus made by this student organization, composed of members of library clubs from the 23 high schools in Birmingham and Jef-



ferson County. (This is the only scholarship sponsored by students in Alabama.)

Jean L. Hoffman, Woodlawn High School, was the sponsor of the 1955 annual tour of the Jefferson County Student Library Assistants. Some 236 students and librarians journeyed to Atlanta on chartered buses on November 5. There they visited the Georgia Tech Library, the Atlanta Public Library, Emory University campus, the Cyclorama, the Wren's Nest (home of Joel Chandler Harris) and Stone Mountain.

The School of Library Science of the University of North Carolina will accept no new candidates for the degree of Bachelor of Science in Library Science; and the degree will be discontinued when those presently enrolled have graduated. It will continue to offer two graduate degrees—Master of Science in Library Science and Master of School Librarianship—and certification programs for school librarians and for public librarians.

The Alabama Library Association will hold its 52nd annual convention, April 27-28, in Sheffield. Headquarters will be the Muscle Shoals Hotel. Chairman of local arrangements is Nell Arsic. Evelyn Peeler of the Lauderdale Public Library (Florence) is chairman of the exhibits.

Dr. Roy B. McKnight of Charlotte, chairman of the new North Carolina State Library Board has issued a progress report concerning the agency which will result from a merger of the existing North Carolina Library Commission and the present State Library. The merged agency, which will be the North Carolina State Library, will come into being as of July 1, 1956, and will combine all of the functions now performed by both the State Library and the Li-

brary Commission plus some new services. Dr. McKnight has announced the retirement of Carrie L. Broughton, State Librarian, to be effective July 1, 1956. Miss Broughton, a native of Raleigh, joined the State Library staff as assistant librarian in 1902 and became state librarian in 1917. When her retirement becomes effective she will have completed 54 years of continuous service with the State Library. A second announcement made by Dr. McKnight was the appointment of Mrs. Elizabeth House Hughey as librarian of the new agency, the North Carolina State Library, when the merger becomes effective next July. Mrs. Hughey came to the North Carolina Library Commission as field librarian in 1946 and was appointed to the position of secretary and director in July, 1950. Prior to joining the Commission staff, Mrs. Hughey was director of the B H M Regional Library, Washington, North Carolina.

The \$90,000 Thomas Duke Parke Memorial Library Building, located at Five Points in Birmingham, was dedicated at an Open House on Sunday, October 9, 1955. The building was made possible by contributions and the recent bond issue in a Birmingham election. In addition to the drive-in book charging and book return feature, the building is air-conditioned throughout and contains a conference room for 75 persons.

Nine North Carolina school systems participated with the North Carolina State Department of Public Instruction in producing a 22 minute sound color film entitled, "Let's Visit School Libraries." This educational film was directed by Cora Paul Bomar and Celeste Johnston, school library advisers, and by James M. Dunlap, former adviser in Resource-Use Education. Mrs. Mary P. Douglas



served as library consultant. All scenes are actual situations taken in North Carolina school libraries. The film is now available for rental or purchase. For rental, write: Bureau of Audio-Visual Education, Extension Division of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina. For purchase, write: Miss Cora Paul Bomar, School Library Adviser, Department of Public Instruction, Raleigh, North Carolina.

The new library at the Air University, Montgomery, is nearing completion. Advance reports indicate that the dedication will be held in June.

Howard College has begun construction of a new library building at the site of the new campus on Lake Shore Drive in Birmingham.

Recent acquisitions in Fisk University Library's Gershwin Memorial Collection include 230 "collector's gem" recordings of Caruso, Galli-Curci, Schumann-Heink and others; and the first 32 of the 69 volumes of Mozart's complete works, the latter presented by Mr. and Mrs. Carl van Vechten.

Alabama school librarians had a lively work conference on February 3-4, under the capable leadership of Martha Jule Blackshear, consultant, and sponsored by the State Department of Education. Speaker at the two-day conference was Mary Peacock Douglas, Raleigh Public Schools and author of *The Teacher Librarian's Handbook*.

The University of Tennessee library staff, for the sixth consecutive year, has awarded its Mary E. Baker Scholarship to a staff member wishing to study toward a graduate degree in library science. The recipient this year is William A. Whitehead, who is enrolled in the University of Illinois Library School.

The M. Paul Phillips Library at Birmingham Southern College is the recipient of a \$300.00 grant from the ACRL for strengthening or modernizing the library. Birmingham Southern's grant is to be used to supplement the holdings of journals recommended by the Southern Association of Colleges in its recently published *Classified List of Reference Books and Periodicals*. Each division of the curriculum will share in the expenditure of the award, in proportion to its needs.

Carnegie Library of Anniston and the Muscle Shoals Regional Library at Florence were recipients of a free set of *Great Books of the Western World*, distributed by Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc.

Covington is the first school system in Kentucky to have complete elementary library supervision on the local level. Arlene Young, director of elementary school libraries in Covington, has nine full-time librarians for the nine elementary schools.

Cornerstone-laying ceremonies for the new library at the University of Louisville were held on January 12, 1956, with librarian Evelyn Schneider participating. The two-story, brick-aluminum-glass library is expected to be completed by next September.

Ralph J. Shoemaker, librarian of the Louisville *Courier-Journal* and *Times*, is president of the Kentucky Library Association. Other officers elected at the business meeting held during the Tri-State Library Conference at Cincinnati, November 4-6, 1955, are: first vice-president, E. J. Humeston, head, Library Science Department, University of Kentucky; second vice-president, Mrs. Naomi Lattimore, librarian, Western Branch, Louisville; treasurer, Mrs. Marian Veath, librarian, Reynolds Metal Company, Louisville; and sec-

retary, Emily Huston Dawson, librarian, Legislative Research Commission, Frankfort. The 1956 meeting of the Association will be held at the Seelbach Hotel, Louisville, on October 18-20.

The University of Kentucky Library Associates and the University of Kentucky Music Department observed the bicentennial year of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's birth with an exhibit and concert on February 15, 1956. Some fifty photographs of people, places, books, and manuscripts

associated with Mozart were on exhibit to accompany the concert. The photographs were made directly from originals in Austria.

(Editor's note: If the items in *Varia* seem weighted in favor of certain states, it is because news was received from those states and none from the others. For the most part, the Editor depends on the members of the Editorial Board to supply the news from the state he or she represents.)

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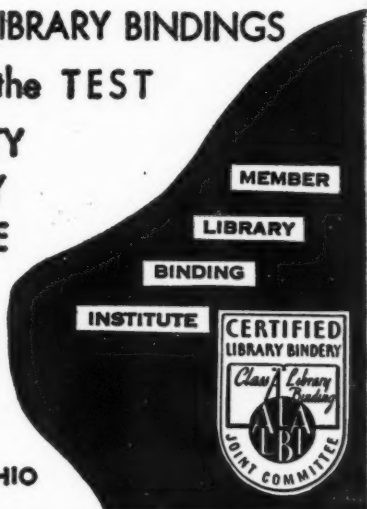
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## *Glitter and Gold for the Price of Silver*

By GRACE IVES DAFFIN\*

"All that glitters is not gold" so the saying goes. Miami and Miami Beach and the so-called "Gold Coast" can be had for silver at the right time of year.

June, 1956, will be the right time for librarians when A.L.A. meets in Miami Beach with its headquarters at the spectacular Fountainebleau.

All the superlative adjectives have been used to describe your host city and they are deserved. But, often times, this very fact keeps many from realizing that all this glitter and gold can be had inexpensively during the summer months. In fact, Miami Beach caters to you and your pocketbook because its good business and good publicity for them. Therefore, you have your choice of elegant sophisticated hotels; lavish motels specializing in family budget or "package" deals, small hotels with even lower rates and guest houses both in Miami and Miami Beach.

It is almost as if you had an Aladdin's lamp at your beck and call because your choice of unusual food is as varied as any a Genie could produce from the east, west, north and south.

For instance, you will have such choices as Shishkebab and Baklava (Syrian and Egyptian); undersea dishes such as Pienes Chioppino, pronounced, Chop-pieno (shellfish dish) or a Bahaman dish Lobster Chilau; then there are Italian specialties as Bragiolette, sometimes called Veal

Birds; or, from South of the Border, Mexican and other Latin American dishes, beans and rice, Arroz. Con Pollo. Of course, there is the famed French cuisine at the Fountainebleau, A.L.A. headquarters.

Let us not forget our own American fare in cafeterias and restaurants catering to every cosmopolitan idea of good food.

There shouldn't be a dull moment. Entertainment and fun is available for every taste. For the outdoor enthusiasts there is swimming, tennis, golf, fishing, just to name a few. For the tourist, there are sightseeing jaunts by boat, bus and jitney taking in sights from the interesting Parrot and Monkey Jungles to extraordinary Viscaya and the Spanish Monastery. Moonlight rides by boat are available for the romantic. Shopping on Miami Beach's Lincoln Road, Miami's Flagler Street and Coral Gables' Miracle Mile will interest some. Unusual night clubs, a little more expensive, will be worth the price for those so inclined.

There is fun for all the family, with many motels, hotels and airlines specializing in package deals; you may rub your Aladdin's lamp and find many surprises. Direct specific requests for information as to accommodations for self or family to: American Library Association Housing Bureau, P.O. Box 1511, Miami Beach, Florida.

Why not make this a family vacation as well as a never-to-be-forgotten A.L.A. Convention?

\* Miss Daffin is librarian of the Edison Center Branch of the Miami Public Library.

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